

حکومت مصر الاحل

Dep as flag  
in Sinai

# THE TIMES

No 61,218

TUESDAY APRIL 27 1982

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## Hospitals disrupted by union

Many psychiatric hospitals are restricting non-emergency admissions because of action by the Confederation of Health Service Employees in support of its 12 per cent pay claim. The action is likely to spread later this week when the National Union of Public Employees completes its campaign plans.

## Kaunda due to meet Botha

President Kaunda of Zambia and Mr. P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, are expected in Botswana today or tomorrow for a meeting which has puzzled observers and aroused criticism in other "front-line" African states.

## Public cash for £50m centre

A last-minute change of mind by the Government means that a £50m international conference centre being built near the Houses of Parliament will now be paid for out of public funds, instead of by private finance.

## Ford profits fall

Profits at Ford of Britain fell slightly to £220m before tax last year. The group is Britain's only big car manufacturer to remain in the black.

## 'Loyalist' threat

Scottish "loyalists" are threatening a battle in Glasgow during the Pope's visit if police stop them from holding a march on June 1.

## Polish hope

As Archbishop Josef Glemp, the Polish primate, arrived in Rome, there were strong indications that the Polish Government is prepared to negotiate with the church.

## Prior rebuffed

Mr James Prior's plans for devolution in Northern Ireland have been denounced as unworkable by the Democratic Unionist Party and the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

## £255,000 award

A Cleethorpes boy aged 17 who was left crippled and blind after a routine appendix operation went wrong has been awarded £255,000 damages.

## US buys Iran oil

The United States has resumed buying oil from Iran for the first time since the hostage crisis in 1979.

## Mafia death

Frank "Three Fingers" Coppola, the Mafia leader suspected of being involved in heroin trade between Sicily and the United States, died in a clinic near Rome, aged 83.

## Petrol up

Eso last night put between 3.5p and 7p a gallon on four-star petrol. Shell, BP and Texaco are expected to follow suit.

## Anti-hunt move

Labour members of Waverley District Council, Surrey, are trying to ban hunting on the council's land but the move seems certain to fail.

## Dame Celia dies

The opening of a play in London was postponed after the death of Dame Celia Johnson, the actress, at her home on Sunday.

## Keegan injury

Kevin Keegan, the England captain, is out of the team to play Wales tonight, after suffering severe backache. Keegan has been having treatment for disc trouble.

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Letters: On the Falklands, from Lord Mishcon, and the Church, from the Rev R. T. Beckwith; captive in Kabul, from Professor Owen Chadwick.  
Leading articles: Falklands; health service workers; Nicholas Fairbairn, the former Solicitor General for Scotland, on why the death penalty should hang over every criminal; an Argentine journalist explains the junta's need for the Falklands; fashion: the fading of demimour; page 14  
Dame Celia Johnson, Miss Margaret Popham

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# British advance unit reported on the Falklands

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

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So was the Opposition's anxiety. Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, insisted that the Government should provide for a debate on the crisis on Thursday. Ministers were last night ready to agree to this. Mr Foot gave his party's full approval to the retaking of South Georgia. He said we were fully within our international rights. There would be relief that the operation was carried through without serious injury on either side, and with extreme skill. He then pressed question after question upon the Prime Minister. What is to happen next? What steps was the Government taking to speed up negotiations? When would the Government return

to the Security Council, and how could the House be absolutely sure that there would be no dangerous escalation of the crisis in any way? Mr Foot insisted that political content must be absolute, "without any possibility of mistake whatever". There were Labour cheers and restiveness from Conservative backbenchers as Mr Foot went on: "We on this side remain as firmly, unshakably and persistently committed to fresh initiatives in search of a peaceful settlement and if one initiative fails then another has to be started. The search for peace must never be tormented by us."

Mrs Thatcher, answering questions, repeated again and again that time was running out. She told Mr Foot that it was more than three weeks since the Security Council had called on the Argentine forces to withdraw. "During that time far from withdrawing, they have put reinforcements on the islands."

She said that the negotiations through Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, must continue with all possible speed. "Of course we search for peace. We did not break the peace. We must remember that while we search for that peace our people, British people, are under the occupation of the Argentine invader."

## Outnumbered British troops forced Argentine surrender

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Royal Marines and soldiers who recaptured South Georgia after a two-hour battle on Sunday, were outnumbered by the Argentine troops at Grytviken.

But after a shore bombardment from the 4.5 inch gun of a Royal Navy warship and after seeing their submarines, the Santa Fe, hit three times by strafing British helicopters, the Argentine garrison offered only limited if not unenthusiastic opposition.

Following their surrender, the garrison commander and submarine captain were taken to the British ships and expressed their "gratitude for the humanity being shown to the prisoners."

"The operation had been very carefully planned and executed with the direct objective of causing the few casualties," Lieutenant-Colonel Timothy Donkin, Royal Marines, said at a crowded press conference last night.

Colonel Donkin, in the first full account of the engagement, said British task force helicopters landing reconnaissance patrols on South Georgia at dawn on Sunday, were fired at by Argentine observation posts on the island. It was while the helicopters were returning from their mission, however, that they spotted the Santa Fe, five miles north-east of Sappho Bay, the east of Cumberland Bay. After identifying it as one of the Argentine navy's two ex-American Guppy class boats, dating back to the Second World War, the task force ships in the vicinity of South Georgia ordered the helicopter attack, the news of which gave the British public the first intimation that the battle for the desolate island had begun.

The helicopters scored three direct hits as the submarine was making for Grytviken harbour. It struggled into port, missed the jetty and beached, after which it began to disgorge not only a 60-man crew but also reinforcements for the Argentine garrison who came out "in a rush" and ran up the beach towards the garrison headquarters.

It was the detection of the submarine, followed by the sight of the reinforcements, which prompted the task force commander in the area to bring forward the timing of the British assault. Colonel Donkin, who is based at the navy's fleet headquarters at Northwood, North-west London, explained.



Lieutenant-Colonel Timothy Donkin last night: "Operation was planned to cause few casualties."

what he called a "major bombardment" from the task force at sea; not directly at the enemy positions but near to them, with the objective of demoralising the enemy but not inflicting heavy casualties upon them. It was while this bombardment was taking place that British helicopters started to land Marines and soldiers at Grytviken.

After meeting the limited opposition, they saw the white flag being flown alongside the Argentine standard at around 5pm, and 45 minutes later the Argentine flag was lowered and the garrison was assumed to have surrendered.

The only casualty during the entire assault had been one Argentine sailor on the Santa Fe who suffered a severe leg injury. (He is said to have had a leg amputated). Colonel Donkin attributed this to the Royal Marines' distasteful for causing casualties when these could be avoided.

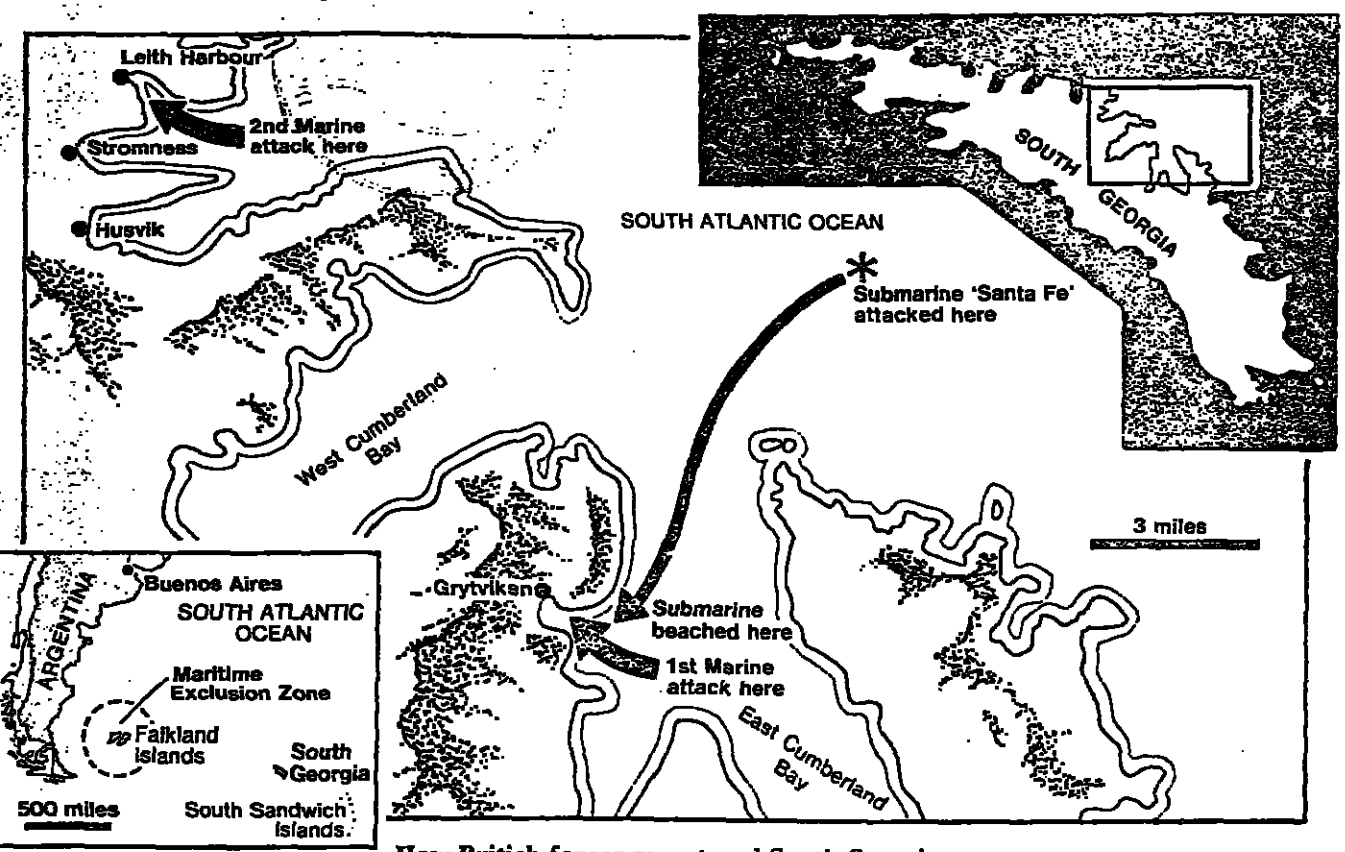
He went on to describe the second operation 10 miles along the coast at the old whaling station of Leith, where a landing by Argentine scrap metal merchants who hoisted their national flag there last month, led to the present crisis over South Georgia and the Falkland Islands.

The assault group called on the 16 Argentine troops and 38 civilians who were there to surrender, following the fall of Grytviken. The civilians, presumably including some of the scrap metal merchants, agreed. But the military commander and his men, all Argentine special forces, elected to fight on.

A British detachment then left Grytviken and took to the sea again, sailing round the indented coastline to Leith, which after a short action was in British hands by first light yesterday. Again there were no casualties, although the Argentines had booby-trapped the approaches to their positions while the British had had to cope with land mines as they moved into action.

In all, some 156 prisoners had been taken, Colonel Donkin said, as well as the 38 civilians. The 156 included the 16 at Leith, the submarine crew of about 60, the original garrison and the reinforcements which the boats had ferried to Grytviken from the Argentine mainland.

There were "far less of us" than there were Argentine troops at Grytviken, he explained, largely because the British had underestimated quite how many reinforcements there were.



How British forces recaptured South Georgia.

## We do not want force - Thatcher

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mrs Thatcher said last night that the Government would continue its efforts to reach a peaceful settlement of the Falklands dispute. Nobody wanted that more than she did.

Interviewed on the BBC television programme, Panorama, the Prime Minister said she did not think that the retaking of South Georgia would increase Argentine resistance to a peaceful settlement. "I hope it will make them realize that we are quietly determined in support of a principle. We do not want to use force. Democracies never do."

Mrs Thatcher said that diplomatic negotiations would have no chance of success unless they were backed up by the task force and the certainty on the part of the Argentines that Britain would use the task force if need be. "I have always hoped that we would not have to use it," she said.

But since the passage of the United Nations resolution three weeks ago, telling the Argentines to withdraw, they had piled more and more soldiers and equipment into the islands.

It seemed absurd that Argentina had not withdrawn its men from the Falklands under the United Nations resolution. If it did, and we could get the United States to guarantee the security of the islands, or even perhaps if there was a United Nations force, we could withdraw our task force.

Then there would be hope of solving the crisis peacefully. "That is my objective and what I shall work for," she said.

## Junta prepares to go on offensive

From Christopher Thomas, Buenos Aires, April 26

Argentina's military junta was today believed to be reviewing tactics for repelling a British counter-attack on the Falklands.

There was still no official acknowledgement late this afternoon of the capture of South Georgia by Britain. The three-man junta was in emergency session, apparently to consider options for some form of offensive against the advancing British fleet rather than merely awaiting its arrival.

Pictures of soldiers placing what appeared to be mines on a Falkland beach appeared in several Argentine newspapers this morning. Some quoted London reports of a British victory but most carried headlines saying the Argentines were holding out.

The junta's last communiqué was issued in the early hours of this morning saying that for tactical reasons communications had been cut with Argentine naval forces on South Georgia. It said: "The apparent initial success of the British forces was based on their numerical superiority, which does not mean that they are in complete control of the island."

"Our forces moved back to their initial position and they continue fighting with higher battle spirits. They have the moral superiority that comes from knowing that they are defending their own country."

Despite the official news blackout, most Argentines were aware of the defeat tonight because of radio reports from Chile and Uruguay. A huge anti-British and anti-American demonstration got under way tonight in the Plaza de Mayo outside the presidential palace.

## Prisoners' status confused

By Our Foreign Staff

The British Government was insisting last night that the 200 Argentines captured during the retaking of South Georgia on Sunday were not prisoners of war, but the Geneva Convention seems to contradict this.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Commons: "A state of war does not exist between ourselves and Argentina". The Ministry of Defence was adamant that the captured men were "prisoners, but not prisoners of war." They were referred to as "prisoners."

But Article Two of the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war ruled that it should apply to all cases of declared war or of any other armed conflict which may arise between two or more of the high contracting parties, even if the state of war is not recognized by one of them.

An armed conflict is sufficient then to place captured troops into the category of prisoners of war, provided that the states involved have ratified the convention. Britain and Argentina have both done so.

Professor Gerald Draper, Colonel Emeritus of Law Studies at Sussex University, told The Times last night that in the light of the experience of the Second World War, it had become inevitable that the protection of such prisoners could not be left to the hazardous and debatable determination of the existence of a legal state of war.

The phrase "armed conflict" had been devised as a solution of this difficulty. "It is accepted law that this phrase will cover any situation in which a difference between two states leads to the intervention of armed forces," Professor Draper said.

## UN chief appeals for restraint

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York, April 26

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary General, today called the situation in the Falklands Islands a threat to world peace, and appealed to the governments of Britain and Argentina to refrain from taking any action that would broaden the conflict.

In a statement issued through his spokesman, Señor Pérez de Cuellar said that the armed exchange between Argentine and British forces on South Georgia has demonstrated the urgent need to halt the escalation of the crisis.

He called on both parties to comply immediately with the three points contained in Security Council Resolution 502, which calls for the cessation of hostilities, the withdrawal of Argentine forces from the Falklands, and a diplomatic solution to the dispute.

Yesterday, Argentina lodged a complaint against Britain in a letter to the Security Council, calling the recapture of South Georgia "an act of armed aggression" and "a grave breach of international peace and security." It stopped short, however, of calling for a meeting of the council.

Washington: Foreign ministers of the Organization of American States (OAS) met here today to consider possible collective action against Britain as the United States struggled to keep negotiations on the Falklands crisis alive after Britain's recapture of South Georgia (Nicholas Ashford writes).

Meeting in the Hall of the Americas in the OAS headquarters in Washington, the foreign ministers this morning approved an initial moderately-worded resolution calling for the maintenance of peace in the Western Hemisphere, and urging that law should prevail.

As the OAS ministers were gathering, President Reagan told a meeting of the United States Chambers of Commerce that "we remain determined to do all we can to help Britain and Argentina resolve their differences without further conflict." He warned, however, that the situation was increasingly difficult, and "time is surely running out."

Señor Raúl Quijano, Argentina's Ambassador to the OAS, said before the meeting started this morning that Argentina was seeking "Latin American solidarity," rather than military aid or sanctions.

Today's meeting was being attended by at least 18 OAS foreign ministers, among them Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, and Señor Nicácor Costa Méndez, the Argentine Foreign Minister.

On arrival at Kennedy Airport in New York yesterday, Señor Costa Méndez was asked if his country was at war with Britain. He replied "technically yes," but added: "there is never an end to diplomacy."

American and Argentine officials emphasized, however, that Mr Haig's mediation effort had not broken down, and that a meeting between the Argentine and American Foreign Ministers was expected to take place during the day.

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# Union action restricts hospital admissions

By Jeannette Mitchell and Felicity Jones

The admission of non-emergency patients to many psychiatric and general hospitals is being reduced because of industrial action by the Confederation of Health Service Employees, which launched its pay campaign yesterday.

The union estimates that one in three health districts is already affected, but the Department of Health and Social Security said it was not yet in a position to comment.

The action in support of a 12 per cent pay claim spread later in the week, as the union branches finalize their plans and coordinate those with the National Union of Public Employees, the other main health service union.

Psychiatric hospitals, where CofHSE membership is traditionally strongest, are particularly affected. Many are accepting only patients entering under the Mental Health Acts.

Action in other hospitals has mostly been limited to refusing to admit non-emergency patients, banning overtime and refusing to carry out paperwork, although there have been two-hour stoppages in some places.

Further action in the dispute will depend largely on health authorities' interpretation of the Government's circular on handling industrial disputes in the health service.

The circular, *Health service management if industrial relations break down*, was issued by the department three years ago after the last big health service pay conflict.

Authorities are advised to use volunteers from staff or the public as circumstances demand.

The department also reminds authorities that most forms of industrial action are a breach of contract and recommends other steps which might be taken, including sending staff home without pay, stopping regular allowances, sick leave and shift treating staff who refuse to cross picket lines as absent.

However, it is not clear how many health authorities will follow that advice, particularly as a leading agency has told volunteers not to step in during an industrial dispute without prior agreement with the unions involved.

Mr Roger Watkins, assistant director of the Volunteer Centre, the national advisory agency on volunteering said: "Our advice is not to rush in and fill gaps left by the withdrawal of services. It must be done in consultation with the unions as our principal concern is to make sure that good will continues after any dispute."

Mr Watkins said the TUC gave a warning to health authorities that any action taken in line with the guidelines could worsen the effects of the dispute, it said.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, told nurses at the Royal College of Nursing's annual conference in Harrogate yesterday that the Government's 6.4 per cent offer was fair.

"But I also recognize the strength of feeling among nurses that governments over the last 10 years have on occasions gained advantage because of the nurses' loyalty, commitment and dedication both to their patients and to the community. We have tried very hard not to take advantage of nurses' loyalty," he said.

Mr Clarke added that since 1979, pay awards to nurses had kept ahead of inflation and the working week had been shortened from 40 to 37½ hours. He hoped the dispute would not obstruct negotiations to put the yearly settlement of nurses' pay on a permanent footing.

Later this week conference delegates will discuss changing the rules of the college which forbid industrial action.

Leading article, page 13

## £30,000 boost for Edinburgh Festival

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

The Edinburgh Festival, which suffered its biggest deficit last year, yesterday received a £30,000 boost in sponsorship for this year's festival from the House of Fraser, Scotland's third largest company.

It makes up for the last-minute loss of £30,000 from the withdrawal of two sponsors, and is the company's immediate response to hearing of the financial difficulties facing the event.

The House of Fraser will be sponsoring two of the highlights of the festival, whose programme was announced last week. They are the opening concert, of Verdi's *Requiem*, on August 22, with Claudio Abbado conducting the London Symphony Orchestra and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus with Margaret Price, Jessye Norman, Jose Carreras and Ruggero Raimondo, which will be repeated two days later; and a version of Mussorgsky's *The Marriage*, written and directed by, and starring, Peter Ustinov.

The move makes House of Fraser, owner of Harrods, the biggest sponsor of the festival, which this year has a sponsorship amounting to £120,000. It marks the return to involvement in Scottish culture and other activities by the company, which announces its own yearly figures tomorrow. Professor Roland Smith, chairman, described the festival as "almost the cultural life of Harrods in the world". He said the

House of Fraser should play a prominent part in the social and cultural life of Scotland. We cannot sit back and watch Britain's finest arts festival, indeed arguably the most important cultural and arts festival in the world, decline."

The company's help comes after John Drummond, festival director, had expressed concern for the future. He recently told the Commons select committee on the funding of the arts that it could be in danger of collapse because of the lack of support.

He said of the new sponsorship: "In a week when there has been so much comment about our financial future, nothing could do more to restore confidence in the festival's capacity for survival."

Although last year's deficit, it is the Festival's largest, it is still small compared with the annual turnover of more than £1.5m, and is covered by the festival's cash account.

The festival receives this year £43,000 from Edinburgh City Council, an increase from £40,000 which is offset by higher rents on buildings. To that is added £390,000 from the Arts Council, £120,000 in sponsorship and about £78,000 in donations. Box office receipts are expected to bring in about £700,000.

Mr Drummond pointed out that a conservative estimate of the income from the festival was £15m.

## Black BL men challenge security order

An industrial tribunal ruled yesterday that 26 black workers at the BL assembly plant at Cowley, Oxford, are entitled to seek compensation over a security chief's memorandum ordering all black workers entering the factory to be stopped.

The tribunal, at Reading, Berkshire, ruled that every black worker at the plant may have been affected by the order, issued by Mr Ray Coxon, head of security. The workers are bringing individual cases, under the Race Relations Act, against BL and Mr Coxon.

The workers are pressing for reimbursement of lost earnings from three meetings held to discuss the issue in working hours and a settlement for hurt feelings. Mr Coxon issued the memorandum in an attempt to stop a black cleaner who had been arrested for theft in the factory from entering the works.

## Kings contest left wide open

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

The Phillips and Drew Kings Tournament at County Hall, London, was left wide open yesterday after a day of brilliant chess. Jan Timman, a Dutch grandmaster, won an impressive game against Christiansen and thus came up to share first place with Perot.

The scores at the end of round 10 were: Perot 6½, Christiansen 6, Karpov 5½, and one shared. The scores at the end of round 11 were: Perot 7½, Christiansen 6½, Karpov 6, and one shared. The scores at the end of round 12 were: Perot 8½, Christiansen 7½, Karpov 7, and one shared.

Korchnoi protest, page 3

## Three new race body members

Three commissioners, all white, have been appointed by the Home Secretary to sit on the Commission for Racial Equality (a staff reporter writes).

They are Mr Alan Gayton, a public relations consultant, chairman of the juvenile bench in Leicester and a member of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee for the selection of magistrates; Mr Edward Gilmour, Jones, director of personnel at Smith's Industries PLC and a member of the management board of the Engineering Employers' Federation; and Mr Gerald Tyler, a solicitor and former deputy leader of West Yorkshire County Council.

These three replace three white commissioners. Altogether there are 15 commissioners, of whom seven are black. Mr David Lane, the outgoing chairman, who is also a commissioner, will be succeeded in September by Mr Peter Newsam, who was education officer of the Inner Education Authority.

The festival receives this year £43,000 from Edinburgh City Council, an increase from £40,000 which is offset by higher rents on buildings. To that is added £390,000 from the Arts Council, £120,000 in sponsorship and about £78,000 in donations. Box office receipts are expected to bring in about £700,000.

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## £255,000 damages

Leonard Darwood, aged 17 with his parents and grandmother. He was awarded £255,000 damages at Lincoln Crown Court yesterday after a routine appendix operation at Scarth Road hospital, Grimsby, went wrong and left him crippled and blind.

His Lincoln correspondent writes.

Humbly Grove health authority admitted liability for medical negligence in the use of an anaesthetic and failing to take proper care of him after he had been deprived of oxygen in December, 1978.

Mr George Newman, QC, said the boy's intellect had been unscathed and he had shown great bravery. He enjoyed football matches and was active in raising money for charities, but still needed constant care.

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## Double assault on Prior's Ulster plan

From Craig Seton, Belfast

The extent of opposition and hostility to the Government's new plans for Northern Ireland is becoming more apparent in advance of tomorrow's Commons debate on the White Paper.

The Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) yesterday declared itself "essentially hostile" to the plans for an elected assembly while the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) described the scheme as unworkable and accused Mr James Prior, the secretary of State for Northern Ireland, of proceeding with ruthlessness.

The DUP's opposition to the plan was expressed in a letter to the Secretary of State under the Bill as dominant and high dictatorial and promised forthright opposition to his authority to negotiate with Dublin over the head of the authority.

It would vote against the second reading of the Bill in an attempt to secure changes and then table many amendments.

The party was particularly critical of the plan that no proposals for devolution should come from the 78-member assembly without the support of at least 70 per cent of its members unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that there are likely to be accepted throughout the community.

The Democratic Unionists said this meant the Secretary of State could revoke devolved powers in the event of, say, 31 per cent opposing the established Government. The party would only encourage instability.

Mr Paisley's party also criticized the "glaring failure" of the plan to enable the law to be enforced, as it touched terrorism, ultimately to be transferred to the Assembly. This was an intolerable attempt to muzzle the assembly on the most important matter affecting the people of Northern Ireland.

Mr Hume, the SDLP leader, said in his party's response to the proposals: "Mr Prior knows that they will not work and they will therefore be a source of further instability."

Mr Hume, whose party has not decided whether to contest elections to the assembly, expected in October, said the proposal for a 70 per cent majority was irrelevant as it had already been dismissed by the Democratic Unionists and the Official Unionists.

"It is quite clear, therefore, that Mr Prior's unworkable 'power-sharing' proposals are included only to give a gloss of respectability and fair-mindedness to what is the only concrete proposal in the White Paper — an election to a powerless assembly, with powerless committees and with well-paid chairmen and vice-chairmen," he said.

Mr Hume said the assembly would be a dangerous talking shop which could be abused by individual parties. The White Paper had more to do with Mr Prior's own political future than with the future of the people of Northern Ireland.

A "loyalist" paramilitary group is thought to have been responsible for a car bomb explosion which injured three women in a republican part of Belfast yesterday. Dozens of houses in the Short Strand area were badly damaged and the stolen car was destroyed by an estimated 100lb of explosives.

Local Labour leaders claimed yesterday that their reluctance to sell council housing to tenants was not harming their electoral prospects and that there was no evidence from canvassing of a rush of prospective purchasers intending to vote Conservative.

Mr David Smith, the Conservative Party's local government officer, endorsed the view of party officials in the regions that in no areas was there a rush of tenants to buy their homes likely to be a determining issue.

In Norwich, where the High Court and the Court of Appeal found that the council had been tardy in selling its housing, neither of the main parties saw much electoral advantage in the issue. Mr George Richards, leader of the Conservatives on the Council said: "We shall be reminding people that we have won, but now that sales are being processed properly other actions by this left-wing council seem more important."

Seventeen Norwich council seats are being contested, with Labour holding 37 of the 48 seats. Labour leaders expect to lose "a few," but Mr Leonard Stevenson, the Labour leader on the council, said the council would be "stronger" today.

Under a Department of the Environment schedule, sales to Norwich tenants are being monitored by civil servants, but council officials expect they will be withdrawn soon.

Since the 1980 Housing Act, embodying the right of tenants to buy came into force, Norwich has sold 170 of its 25,000 homes. About 20 to 30 applications are received weekly with several hundred sales likely by the year's end.

Labour is proud of its public transport system in greater Glasgow and says that rail fares would double but for the region's £28m subsidy to British Rail on the largest suburban rail network outside London.

Until recently, Strathclyde Labour councillors have avoided the kind of confrontation with central Government that bedevilled the Labour group in the Lothian region. They tried to work within the strict guidelines imposed by the Secretary of

State for Scotland but they are now taking Mr George Younger to court. They claim that he has acted illegally in restricting the region's rate support grant with a way out of the council's expenditure.

The case will not be heard until the new council has been elected but it will undoubtedly influence the vote. The Conservatives are campaigning against what they see as excessive and unreasonable spending by local authorities. The recent 16 per cent rise in Strathclyde rates will be useful ammunition for the candidates. Labour report that rates are still only an estimated three per cent of average household expenditure.

## AUEW leaves pay rise options open

From Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent, Eastbourne

The hopes of engineering employers that wage increases can be kept within single figures for the third successive year were raised yesterday when the industry's biggest union agreed not to set a figure on its annual pay claim.

The national committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers voted by 56 to 35 to seek a substantial increase, rejecting a left-wing amendment seeking an across-the-board flat rate money increase of 15 per cent.

The left's demand would have meant a 12 per cent increase on average earnings of about £120 a week, and an increase of 18 per cent for the small minority of the industry's 1,250,000 workers who are paid on nationally agreed minimum rates, which yield £83 a week for skilled men.

Mr Terence Duffy, union president, said after the debate: "This decision gives me the elasticity I need in bargaining with the Engineering Employers' Federation. We know that in the present economic circumstances the bargaining will be tough."

The significance of the engineering negotiations, apart from the large number of employees covered, lies in the fact that the November anniversary date comes at the beginning of what is usually regarded as the annual private sector wage round.

Because of the two-tier bargaining system in the industry, negotiations on national minimum time rates directly affect only overtime, shift and holiday payments for the large majority of the industry's employees who are paid at rates over the national minimums.

Mr Jack Crystal, a delegate from Northumberland, told the committee yesterday: "With firms going broke, and four million unemployed, wage negotiations will be difficult and the negotiators should be given a certain amount of leeway."

The conference of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, also in Eastbourne, voted to seek a wages minimum of £90 a week for its 437,000 members.

The demand comes at a time when the union is preparing to defend existing wages council machinery, which sets a minimum of £62 a week, against possible moves by the Government to disband it. Most of the retail industry's employees are covered by the wages councils.

The conference unexpectedly voted in favour of a resolution criticising the TUC's condemnation of the Youth Training Movement, which has links with the Workers Revolutionary Party. The TUC has circulated trades councils advising them not to support the movement, whose chairman is Miss Vanessa Redgrave, which has established centres for the young unemployed in Brixton, Liverpool, Glasgow and Nottingham.

Mr Jeff Price, a bookshop worker from Newcastle upon Tyne, told the conference that unemployment among young people was turning many of them to glue sniffing (the Press Association reports). He spoke of them "wandering around the streets in a doped-up haze."

The TUC General Council would be substantially enlarged under reforms agreed for recommendation yesterday by the finance and general purposes committees, which will go before the General Council tomorrow (Our Labour Editor writes).

The changes would increase the ruling group in size from 44 to 54 to take account of the shift towards white-collar trade unionism. There would be 37 automatic seats and 17 with more than 100,000 members.

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## Science report

## Dinosaurs may have gone blind

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A new explanation of what happened to the dinosaurs is proposed today by Dr L. R. Croft, biologist at the Life Sciences Department of Salford University, who believes their extinction may have been brought about by increasing blindness.

Dr Croft prefaces his idea with the comment that reputations have been made and lost on speculation of the fate of those great creatures, and, ironically, his contribution to this controversy coincides with publication of support for an existing rival hypothesis by a 20-strong international team of scientists. They are in favour of an earlier notion, that the death of the dinosaurs came after a large extra-terrestrial object struck the Earth.

Their account of the extinction, or to be more precise their description of the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary event of which the dinosaurs' demise was one outcome, is reported in the journal *Science*.

There were about 800 species of dinosaurs roaming the Earth and they survived for about 150 million years. Dr Croft suggests there is evidence that some of the species survived far longer than others because they adapted to changes in the climate.

By reconstructing the anatomy of the skull and the physiology of the eye, Dr Croft proposes that the dinosaurs' death was produced by a cataract of the eye. He believes that the increase of the incidence of the disease was provoked by an increase in solar radiation as the composition of the atmosphere was evolving, and those animals which did not develop a cataract of the eye socket or did not develop some other protective structure — like the horny crest between the eyes — disappeared.

Only during the past few years have biochemists unravelled some of the circumstances that cause the lens of the eye to lose its transparency, or to form cataracts. One of them is a mechanism in which the structure of protein molecules in the lens are altered.

Most of this information has come from studies in human eyes. There is a difference between the structure of the protein in old and warm-blooded animals.

Experiments made by Dr Croft and Dr M. B. Tabet, of the Royal Manchester Eye Hospital, compared how each of these proteins from "warm-blooded" and "cold-blooded" animals would react to sunlight. Samples of purified proteins were placed in glass test tubes and exposed to sunlight for several weeks. They discovered that only the unstable protein of the cold-blooded animal was affected by sunlight, and the solution was turned opaque.

Thus they conclude that the dinosaurs lens must have lacked the stable protein and, consequently those animals became susceptible to cataract blindness.

The rival theory, about an object hitting the earth, is that the impact killed the microscopic plants in the surface waters of the ocean, and that mass death set off a domino effect that included the end of the dinosaurs.

The strongest evidence for this idea is the so-called iridium anomaly. There is an abnormally high concentration of the metal iridium in the clay that marks the boundary between the Cretaceous and Tertiary eras.

Associated fossil evidence which can be dated by the iridium anomaly, suggests a sudden, "greenhouse" warming of the atmosphere, which triggered a sequence of startling logical effects, including the destruction of microscopic plants and including eventual demise of the dinosaur.

The *Last Dinosaurs* by Dr L. R. Croft (Edinburgh Books £4.95). Science, Vol 216, p249.

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The



## Loyalists issue battle threat on papal visit

By Michael Horsnell

A group of militant Scottish Orangemen is threatening to turn Glasgow into a battlefield if the Pope visits the city under the banner of the Scottish Loyalists, a view which is confirmed by the group's inner council.

The Scottish Loyalists, who broke away from the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland in 1979 because of the institution's alleged tolerance of republican parades in a city where more than a third of the population is Roman Catholic, are now regarded as one of the prime threats to security during the Pope's visit.

Strathclyde police confirmed yesterday that the group is being monitored but would not say whether they would seek a ban on the march until the organization approaches them with a route.

A member of the Scottish Loyalists' inner council told *The Times* that the organization would approach the police early next month with their plans for the march, and another on the same day through the city centre, and added that he was unable to ensure that members would act responsibly if police oppose them.

According to the group's public branch officers have interviewed some members over recent months without charging them but several leaders say they expect to be arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which allows the police to hold suspects for an extended period without charge, shortly before the Pope's arrival.

The Scottish Loyalists claim links with local cells of the paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Defence Association, the Rev Ian Paisley's Third Force.

The police expect most of the militant groups to parade in the city under the banner of the Scottish Loyalists, a view which is confirmed by the group's inner council.

The Scottish Loyalists constitute the political and theological opposition to the visit of which Mr Paisley will be the focus.

He has been invited to Glasgow, which is harbouring the ingredients of Ulster's religious sectarianism, by the British Council of Protestant Christian Churches, of which he is national chairman, by the Rev David Cassells, a relative by marriage and the council's Scottish representative.

Under the council's auspices Mr Paisley will "show" the Pope throughout his visit, including Liverpool which is regarded as the second most likely flash-point.

Protestant groups there are already raising with Mr Cassells about their own protest plans and flying pickets from Glasgow are expected to support them.

Mr Cassells, Minister of the Jock Troup Memorial Church Glasgow, is chairman of the Scottish Constitutional Defence Committee, a militant Loyalist organization.

He told *The Times*: "We have strong contacts with the Scottish Loyalists. They may be sabre rattling at the moment but there is every sign there is going to be serious trouble. I am very sure that the Pope will be happy if the police position them five or six miles away from the Pope."

Mr Cassells, who has helped to organize meetings and rallies in the city is working closely with Pastor Jack Glass, Minister of Glasgow's Sovereign Grace Baptist Church and a candidate under the Protestant

Crusade against the Papal visit banner at the recent Glasgow, Hillhead, by-election.

Pastor Glass is chairman of the Twentieth Century Reformation Movement, another group within the confederation of Protestant organizations opposing the visit, and he works closely with militant members of the Grand Orange Order of Scotland and the Scottish branch of the Apprentice Boys of Derry.

He said: "I am sure there will be violence. The streets are not a church and I have no right to dictate who shall come out on them."

Among the difficulties they and other groups will pose for the police are unfurnished reports that tickets for the Pope's mass have disappeared and others have been forged.

While remaining members of the Grand Orange Lodge, the Scottish Loyalists plan to defy the institution's decision to hold peaceful protests only.

Inquiries by *The Times* show that the group has nine branches.

The Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, the Very Rev Alan Webster, said in an article published yesterday that he hopes the Pope will not speak about a "contraceptive mentality" or "discuss too closely the intimate love life of men and women during his visit to Britain next month (Clifford Lingley, Religious Affairs Correspondent writes).

In an article in the May edition of *Theology*, the Dean says the Pope is an attractive human being who stands for centralized authority. He is an unmarried man who regards himself as an expert on the family.

"When he visits England, there will be an opportunity to discover whether he can listen", he added.



Victor Korchnoi, the Soviet chess grandmaster, who defected in 1976, demonstrating yesterday outside County Hall, London, where Anatoly Karpov, the Soviet World Champion, is playing in the Phillips and Drew tournament. Korchnoi is campaigning for his family to be allowed to join him. He won the tournament in 1980, but was not invited this year.

## Hunt protesters face defeat on ban

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Opponents of hunting face defeat tonight in their latest attempt to persuade Waverley District Council in South-west Surrey to ban hunting on its land.

The council was an attractive target for anti-hunt campaigners because a vote for a ban would not be frustrated by legal arguments about the vesting of sporting rights.

The Waverley area covers more than 80,000 acres including 8,400 acres of rural land owned or managed by the council. A Labour motion calling for a ban on all hunting with hounds on this land will be debated tonight and if it is approved, council officers will be expected to report quickly on ways of enforcing it.

Similar bans elsewhere have been frustrated by the fact that much council land is rented by farmers whose tenancy agreements give them sporting rights. But Waverley, on which 48 of the 61 members are Conservatives, does not own farms.

The motion is expected to be lost after intensive lobby-

ing by supporters and members of hunts.

The only hunt to lose part of its country from such a ban would be Mr Coshen's.

The campaign for a ban has been promoted by the League Against Cruel Sports, which narrowly failed to win a similar vote in Leicestershire last month. It is promoting further motions to ban hunting in Wiltshire, Cambridgeshire, Dorset and South Glamorgan.

The league's efforts have united hunting and shooting organizations, as illustrated yesterday in the speed and scale of their reaction to the Labour Party's latest draft plan to ban hunting after the next general election.

The party's policy of outlawing hunting but not shooting and fishing was dismissed as "clear humbug and political hypocrisy" by the British Field Sports Society, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation and masters of foxhounds, deerhounds, minkhounds, packs of beagles and basset hounds and the National Coursing Club.

## Poverty 'threatens Europe's democracy'

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Mass unemployment is exacerbating poverty in Europe so much that the democratic foundations of the Community are threatened, Mr Ivor Richard, European commissioner for employment and social affairs, said in London yesterday. But the hostility and resentment of member states to having the collective poverty of Europe exposed ruled out hopes of Community action.

An appalling number of people lived in poverty in Europe, substantially more than 30 million people, or more than one in 10 of the Community's population, Mr Richard said. The increase in unemployment of the past four years had added to the "traditional" groups of poor, the elderly, one-parent families and the disabled, who were suffering most from government cuts.

"In Europe in 1982 we have a body of poor people which is long established, which is persistent and which is growing," Mr Richard said. "Unless we can rad-

ically alter this situation then not only does Europe deserve to stand condemned in the eyes of civilized people but also we place the democratic foundations of our society at very real risk."

Mr Richard, speaking at the launching of a book evaluating the first European anti-poverty programme, offered some hope of piecemeal action against poverty in Europe. The first priority must be the battle against unemployment which was why the commission had asked member states to review their anti-inflation policies and public spending programmes.

The book says that poverty is growing although most Europeans are better off. An internal redistribution of resources could eliminate poverty. It proposes that a minimum index-linked wage, backed by a strong family policy, should be the first step.

*Europe Against Poverty: The European Poverty Programme 1975-80*, by Jane Deane, Edward James, Graham Room and Philip Eaton (Bedford Square Press £10.95)

## Minister rejects 'finite' immigration

By Lucy Hodges

Immigration from the Indian subcontinent is still continuing and it is not possible, as previously thought, to talk about a finite pool of people wanting to come to Britain, Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, said yesterday.

That was mainly because the children of first-generation Indian immigrants were looking for wives and husbands from the subcontinent but also because the dependants of initial immigrants were still entering the United Kingdom.

Figures given to the Commons subcommittee on race relations and immigration by the Home Office show that 8,040 wives from the Indian subcontinent were granted permanent settlement in Britain last year.

Most of the wives coming automatically entitled by law to do so and the Government expects that wives and children of men settled in the United Kingdom will continue to come into the 1980s.

Giving evidence to the subcommittee yesterday, Mr

Raison said: "Immigration is something that is continuing. A few years back we thought it was a finite problem. So long as we have a commitment to admit wives and dependants the problem cannot be a finite one."

Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York and a former Labour minister responsible for immigration, took issue with Mr Raison's analysis and said that apart from second generation immigrants seeking spouses abroad, to which they were perfectly entitled, immigration had dried up.

The minister replied that the facts proved Mr Lyon wrong. "At the end of the day it is a matter of definitions and semantics," he said. "I do not think any of us know what the future of second-generation marriages will be."

Mr Raison told the committee that the idea for the register of dependants from the Indian subcontinent, proposed by the Conservatives before the last election, was not as good a guide to future immigration as an analysis of the statistics.

## Sharp shock regime 'too soft'

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

"Tougher" detention centre regimes, intended to give short, sharp shocks to muggers and football hooligans, are in fact easier than the ones they replaced.

The opinion of prison officers at the centres surveyed by their Association. "Very few" muggers and football hooligans are sent there, the Prison Officers' Association says in a circular to its branches.

But medically unfit boys who were sent there included one who was deaf and dumb, another who had had open heart surgery two years before, and some with serious physical deformities.

The "short sharp shocks" were introduced at two detention centres, Send, near Woking, and New Hall, near Wakefield, and later at Haslar, near Gosport, and Foston Hall, near Derby, partly in response to calls for tougher punishments. The emphasis is on drill, physical training and education, the circular says.

Of 1,070 trainees sent to New Hall since the start of the experiment there two years ago, 76 have had to be transferred elsewhere as unfit to cope with the life.

Most trainees continue to be ones who have taken and driven away vehicles or committed larceny. A few are guilty of assault, most of them of causing actual bodily harm.

Trainees "find advantage" in the present variety of activities compared with concentrated effort in the past with its emphasis on hard work.

The workaholic have come to realize that the longer they take between different activities the less they will have to do.

Drill is a waste of time, the circular says. Trainees prefer it to any other work. But many of them are so badly coordinated and have such a low mental age that marching in time is beyond them. Some trainees are openly ridiculed by others and that damages the rest of their performance.

Some trainees have lost all remission by refusing to do drill training, but staff have no means of compelling them.

Some instructors who realize physical training could be more imaginative have to work in overcrowded inadequate buildings.

## King calls for stable economy

from Tim Jones, Cardiff

These are troubled times in the Independent Kingdom of Hay. As His Majesty King Richard I prepares to celebrate the fifth anniversary of his coronation on Saturday the horrors of modern technological life continue to encroach on his domain.

Even as King Richard will be presenting to his subjects his newly-appointed wheelwright, part of his mind will be preoccupied with the worrying matters of state.

For His Majesty, otherwise known as Richard Booth, owner of one of the world's largest second hand bookshops, has declared war on the local branch of Fine Fare purveyors of food to princes and peasants alike.

In a petition which he requires his 1,400 subjects to sign, Mr Booth states: "We believe that the 1,000-year-old culture of this town is threatened as never before by the rapid expansion of supermarkets in Wales and we therefore look sympathetically on the request to Fine Fare to leave town."

According to a royal proclamation issued from The

Castle, Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford, 80 per cent of the townsfolk support King Richard's petition asking for a return to the horse economy and the departure of the supermarket.

In an audience granted to *The Times* yesterday King Richard said: "For a thousand years the economy, culture and tradition of Hay has depended on horse transport. The horse economy has been destroyed by the oil transported food of the supermarket."

"Every time a large lorry draws up the town's balance of payments suffers. Unfortunately it is a law of nature that quantity destroys quality. The grey squirrel drives out the red."

Stating that everything imported was inferior, the King said that if local milk, cheese, eggs and butter could be reestablished it would be a giant step towards rebuilding the prosperity of the Hay economy.

The royal personage almost trembled when his thoughts turned to the EEC:

"Bureaucrats now intend our sacred land and our only hope of defeating them is to return to the horse economy. Of the 100 jobs created by books in the kingdom another 100 will be created when we revert to the horse."

Fortunately for King Richard, his crown left outside the booking office of Exeter railway station has been returned by a local taxi driver who is to receive a peerage for his honesty.

The crown jewels will also be on display on Saturday as King Richard, accompanied by his Minister of Agriculture, outlines his strategy for the next year. He will display the work of his wheelwright, which includes a governess's cart, training dilly and a horse-drawn breadvan.

Fine Fare, faced with high noon, were not exactly erecting the barricades when told of the proclamation: "It is the first I have heard of it," said a spokesman. "As far as I am concerned the store is very popular in the town."

## Video film damages agreed

By David Nicholson-Lord

Damages and costs of £750,000 were agreed in the High Court yesterday in what is thought to be the biggest case to date of video piracy in Britain.

Three people alleged to be involved in a video counterfeiting "factory" in Northampton agreed a series of permanent undertakings to the five leading film and video companies that brought the action.

The court had been told that Mr Charles Noble, his wife and Mr Ricky Green were responsible for a factory over a betting shop in which 45 video recorders were found copying films like *Superman*, *10 Watership Down* and *Lord of the Rings*. The equipment, tapes and artwork were seized under a court order.

The case is the first in a campaign by the recently formed British Videogram Association which has set up a £250,000 fighting fund. The plaintiffs in the action, which is continuing against nine other companies and individuals, are Warner Communications, Thorn-EMI, MGM, Twentieth Century Fox and Video Programme Distributors. Future actions are expected to be "representative", taken on behalf of all association members.

The Nobles and Mr Green agreed not to make or sell copies of films less than 50 years old and made by the plaintiffs and not to "pass off" cassettes under their trade marks.

## Fire hazard

Dry weather has made the Lake District a high risk fire area, the Cumbria fire service said yesterday. Motorists and campers were asked to take care with cigarette ends and matches.

## Jimmy Hill apologizes on TV row

Jimmy Hill, the sports commentator, apologized in court yesterday for "impugning the integrity" of Football League Management Committee members in a dispute over television soccer coverage.

Mr Hill, in remarks to reporters, accused committee members of behaving illegally after they decided in November 1979 to give London Weekend Television exclusive coverage of matches. Mr Justice Milmo was told in the High Court in London.

London Weekend's offer was more than the BBC and the Independent Television Companies Association had offered between them. Mr David Eady, counsel for the committee, said.

Mr Hill felt the BBC and ITCA should have been given the chance to better the offer, but that was not because London Weekend insisted on secret negotiations.

Eventually it was agreed that shared soccer coverage should continue, Mr Eady said.

Mr Hill, chairman of Coventry City FC and presenter of BBC television's *Match of the Day*, now accepted there had been no attempt to mislead the BBC and ITCA and "unreservedly withdrew" his remarks. The committee drew its libel action against him.

## Union damages action agreed

Agreement in principle has been reached over a damages action against Lord Brighshaw who is alleged to have taken part in a conspiracy to defraud the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel.

The union has accused its former secretary and two others of misusing union funds. The three say they acted in accordance with union policy. The agreed wording of a court order is expected to be announced in the High Court today.

## Porton protest

Fines totalling £560 were imposed by magistrates at Salisbury, Wiltshire, on 24 people arrested on Saturday during an animal rights demonstration at the chemical defence establishment, Porton Down. Five other people were bailed to appear later.

## Hairbrush alert

Six electric hairbrushes which could be dangerous because of poor insulation are still being sought by Cumbria's trading standards officer more than three weeks after 39 were sold at an auction in Kendal.

## Rally boy killed

Patrick Martin, aged 16, of Lime Tree Close, Rainworth, Nottinghamshire, died yesterday after a car in which he was a passenger crashed during a practice for a rally on a rough track in Clipstone Forest, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

## Winning railway

The Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway Co has won the annual Allen and Unwin Steam Railway award for the railway which has shown the most professional in providing enjoyment for the public.

## Actress wins

Britt Ekland the screen actress won a permanent court order yesterday banning the showing of a sex film called *Electric Blue - The Movie* incorporating an eight-second commentary by her which she had not authorized.

## Golfer clubbed

Mr Barry Block, aged 44, from Kennington, London, underwent emergency surgery yesterday after being hit over the head with a putter at East Cliff golf course, Folkestone, after an argument over priority at the second tee.

## Canvey inquiry

The second part of a public inquiry into the safety of the £12m methane plant at Canvey Island, Essex, today. The British Gas Corporation will seek to answer objections led by Sir Bernard Braine, Conservative MP for Essex, South-east.

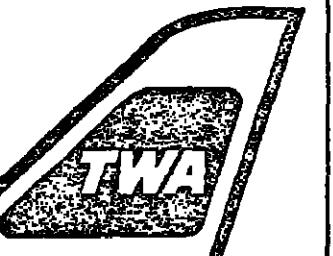
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World reaction

# Spain tells both sides of its deep concern

By Our Foreign Staff

Reactions in world capitals to news of Sunday's invasion of South Georgia by British forces included:

□ Madrid: Señor José Pedro Pérez-Llorca, the Spanish Foreign Minister, Mr Richard Parsons, the British Ambassador, and Señor Enrique Llopis, the Argentine Ambassador to the Ministry in Madrid to express his Government's "deep concern" over the hostilities and to urge them to negotiate.

After news of the British attack on an Argentine submarine reached the Spanish capital on Sunday, the Foreign Ministry issued the following communiqué.

"In view of the outbreak of military operations in the South Georgia Islands, the Spanish Government considers that in any case the necessary steps should be taken to avoid at all costs the loss of human lives."

The April 2 declaration said in part: "Decolonization should be carried out, assuring the reestablishment of Argentine territorial integrity and safeguarding the interests and welfare of the population, via a peaceful process of negotiation."

After his meeting yesterday evening with the two ambassadors, Señor Pérez-Llorca was reported to have conferred with Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, about the Falklands conflict.

The liberal daily *Diario-16* commented yesterday in a leading article: "We Spaniards... have our own 'Falklands'... yet, with all due respect for our legitimate arguments for sovereignty over the Rock, Gibraltar will never be worth the blood of a single Spaniard, or even of a single British person."

□ Tokyo: The Japanese Government reacted gravely

and expressed regret over the current development, Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Prime Minister, said. It was "very regrettable" that the situation had developed into armed conflict "at a time when Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, is actively engaged in mediation efforts."

While local newspapers reported the clash with banner headlines, the Government remained rather sober, apparently reflecting the neutral position it has taken since Argentina occupied the Falkland Islands.

□ Bonn: West Germany reaffirmed its support for Britain over the Falklands issue. Herr Kurt Becker, the Government spokesman, said West Germany had supported Britain from the start over the illegal seizure of its sovereign territory "and this support continues unchanged."

Many West German newspapers expressed misgivings about the British landing and believed that a peaceful solution would be more difficult than before.

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* saw the recapture of South Georgia as a last warning by Britain to Argentina and predicted that a peaceful solution of the conflict "is farther off than ever". The *Frankfurter Rundschau* said a peaceful solution was now more difficult, perhaps impossible, unless the Argentine regime climbed down.

Die Welt argued that the timing of the landing, just before the conference of the Organization of American States in Washington gave the Argentine regime "the chance to arouse fresh emotions and brand the Britons as Aggressors."

resolve has not weakened rather than strengthened its hand in any continuing negotiations. The independent leftwing daily *Le Mazin* emphasized that "one cannot, in this affair, ignore the fact that hostilities were deliberately, in violation of international rules, started by Buenos Aires."

This is undisputed in France. The socialist Government did not have a moment's hesitation in condemning Argentina, backed by public opinion, because its reaction of injured pride was something with which this country instinctively sympathizes and because the tolerance of such practices by the international community could be contagious; and France too possesses disputed islands.

□ Sydney: Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, said Britain's use of force in South Georgia was a consequence of Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands. "Argentina has refused to take effective action to settle the dispute by peaceful means and has ignored repeated warnings from the British Government that the circumstances justified the use of force," he said.

"It is a matter of great regret that the Argentine Government initiated military action in this dispute, and has not allowed it to be settled by peaceful means."

□ Wellington: The New Zealand Government applauded Britain's repositioning of South Georgia. Mr Robert Muldoon the Prime Minister, expressed the Cabinet's "gratification" that Britain had moved decisively and effectively.



British 'pirates' jeered

Argentines demonstrating outside Government House in Buenos Aires on Sunday afternoon. The inscription on the Union Jack reads "dirty pirates".

Newspapers had headlined the Junta's early morning announcement that British helicopters and warships were attacking the Argentine defenders on South Georgia, who were holding their own. The crowd of about 200 outside Government House was small compared with the throng that had filled the Plaza de Mayo in support of the Government's refusal to

negotiate its claim to sovereignty over the Falklands. Streets elsewhere in the Argentine capital were quiet.

Señor Pablo Marconi, a businessman among the crowd in the square, said he thought the British attack was "idiotic".

"No matter how this comes out, the British have no right here," he said. Asked if he was afraid the South Georgia hostilities could set off a full-scale war, he replied "Argentina is not afraid." Others were not so confident. "Certainly I'm afraid," Señor Guillermo Larrea, a

taxi driver said. "We are a people of peace. We don't know what war is like." He said he still hoped for a diplomatic solution. Señora María del Carmen de Fuentes said the thought of war with Britain made her sad, but she was certain Argentina was in the right. "The destruction and the economic cost are not the worst things, but the human cost," she said. "Not only Argentine boys are going to die, but English boys, too. I think about our boys there in the south, but also feel sorry for mothers in England."

The next moves

## Muscles flexed on island springboard

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The operation in South Georgia has recaptured for Britain a barren, windswept land of glaciers and snowy mountains, whose only indigenous population grow flippers. But could it also be a springboard from which to launch an assault upon Argentine forces in the Falkland Islands?

Politically the counter-attack on South Georgia was attractive because the Argentine claim to sovereignty is recent and specious. Diplomatically it reinforces British policy of negotiating from strength by proving that the Government is prepared to use force.

Militarily, the operation has done a power of good for morale, in Britain and in the South Atlantic. If only for that reason it seemed sensible to do the easier things first. It has endorsed the Government's confidence in the forces in situ.

It has given the Royal Navy a deep water anchorage in which to harbour its ships from the buffeting they are now enduring on the high seas. Sailors will be able to stretch their legs, as some of the marines have already done. If Rear-Admiral John Woodward, the task force commander, decides that he has enough time.

South Georgia has plenty of fresh water, unlike the Falklands themselves, and four old whaling stations which could provide storage facilities for food and fuel in theory; cutting down on the voyages to and from Ascension Island 3,500 miles away. Moreover, it is effectively outside the range of the Argentine Air Force whose in-flight refuelling capacity is extremely limited.

As a forward base for the task force, however, it has severe limitations, apart from the shortage of natural facilities.

One is the absence of an airstrip and the other is its 800-mile distance from Port Stanley. Harrier aircraft can take off vertically, but only at enormous cost in terms of payload and range, which would make the use of them from Gryllsven impracticable.

There were reports yesterday that the Government might order Admiral Woodward's counter-attack on the Falklands sooner rather than later, while his troops have psychologically the upper hand.

He has nuclear-powered submarines enforcing the maritime exclusion zone around the Falklands while his own ships and aircraft have declared a similar air and sea zone around themselves. When the force enters Falklands waters — today was one early estimate — he will probably establish an air exclusion zone around them.

Any immediate action has some disadvantages. One is that he would have to operate without the 20 or so additional Harriers which are being ferried out from Britain. He would have only 20 with him, and their flying time could be curtailed by the heavy seas under the carriers.

But by waiting while the Government once more tries to find an acceptable peace formula he adds to the problems of supply and is subjecting his weather-beaten sailors and marines to more debilitating days at sea.

Estimates of the assault troops now with the task force vary from 5,000 upwards. They are almost certainly fewer than the number of Argentine troops on the Falklands, whereas an attacking force should have a three-to-one advantage according to the old textbooks — and he has no guaranteed air superiority.

At things being equal, he would probably prefer to launch his counter-offensive through one of the back or side doors of the Falklands rather than the front, establishing a beachhead in one or more of the numerous, shelving inlets, far away from Port Stanley.

There are other options. One remains that of simply laying siege to the islands by means of a sea and air blockade, but this would take time, would make life difficult for the islanders and be hard to maintain.

Another, a punitive action against the Argentine fleet, would risk heavy loss of life on both sides — and could easily be avoided by the Argentine ships running into port. A third, a similar strike by Vulcan bombers against air and naval mainland bases, would risk stigmatizing Britain's reputation.

Admiral Woodward has a number of options, none of them very attractive. The capture of South Georgia might arguably have given him more time to consider them — and arguably not.

## EEC seeks quick settlement

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg, April 26

Only a very quick settlement of the Falklands crisis without the use of undue force is capable of ensuring unqualified support for Britain from all its European partners. The EEC Foreign Ministers Council will endorse this view at its present meeting here.

Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, is due here late this evening and will give his fellow council members a report on the Falklands when they meet tomorrow.

The member states of the EEC were among the first to give Britain support after the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands. They backed their unanimous condemnation of the Junta's action by imposing a total import and arms sale ban on Argentina. The EEC takes 25 per cent of all Argentine exports.

The EEC condemnation was unusually swift and undoubtedly sincere. Many of the countries know that they will suffer economically as a result of the ban. But many of them know they

could be vulnerable to a similar attack. However, there is little or no enthusiasm among member countries for any solution which may be obtained by fighting. In all its declarations on the subject the Council has emphasized the need for a peaceful solution and it has carefully shied away from any open discussion on military matters.

This is in no small measure due to the European aversion to fighting, born of the experience of two world wars. The EEC was brought into being by the need for peace and by the realization that fighting was a bad way to solve any problems.

The distaste for fighting in this instance is also due to a calculation that the Soviet Union could quickly spread its influence in South America if it sided with Argentina in a war. The sure way to give the Kremlin a strong base in the South Atlantic is for Britain to go to war over the Falklands, one diplomat here said.

The EEC hope that diplomatic and economic pressure

can quickly force the Junta to pull its troops and flag out of the islands. That was why it agreed to impose the import ban initially until May 17, and for longer but subject to review.

The ban would almost certainly be renewed, although there would be reserves depending on the level of fighting and to the amount of progress that may have been made by then on the question of Britain's contribution to the EEC budget.

The link between the budget and the Falklands has never been made when ministers meet, but it is very much the subject of behind the scenes calculations. There is a widespread feeling among delegations that European solidarity with Britain over its colonial problems must be matched by Britain with European solidarity over its budget problems.

Some countries have not been slow to notice that the British Government has already spent far more on protecting its sovereignty in the Falklands than it appears to be prepared to contribute to the EEC budget.

## Latin America's other flashpoints

### A turbulent continent simmers

By Peter Stafford

Geopolitics is taken seriously in South and Central America. There are border disputes in many parts and from time to time they flare up, causing tension or even hostilities. Here are the main ones.

Venezuela-Guyana: Venezuela claims the Essequibo region, which accounts for about two-thirds of the territory of Guyana. By the protocol of Port of Spain, signed in 1970, the two countries agreed to freeze the dispute for 12 years. But that period expires on June 18, and Venezuela has said that it will not extend it.

Venezuela-Colombia: There are differences over delimitation of the maritime border in the Gulf of Venezuela. The disputed areas are possibly oil-bearing.

Colombia-Nicaragua: Nicaragua claims the islands of Providencia and San Andrés, and a number of small islets which lie between the coasts of the two countries and have been under Colombian rule for many years.

Guatemala-Belize: Guatemala maintains its claim to the whole of Belize, which became independent last year. Mexico-Belize: Mexico has a legal claim to the northern part of Belize. But it has said that it would only press it if Guatemala took over Belize. Mexico supports Belizean independence.

Ecuador-Peru: Ecuador claims a large expanse of Peruvian Amazonia. The two countries went to war over it in 1941, and there was a brief outbreak of fighting over remote border posts last year.

Bolivia-Chile: Bolivia lost a stretch of territory giving it access to the Pacific in the War of the Pacific in 1879. It has been making efforts to regain access to the ocean ever since.

Peru-Chile: Peru also lost territory to Chile in the War of the Pacific. It has been less active in trying to regain it, but insists on its treaty right to be involved in any settlement between Bolivia and Chile.

Argentina-Chile: Argentina claims three islands in the Beagle Channel, south of Tierra del Fuego, and nearby went to war over them in 1978. The issue is now under consideration by the Pope, who has made recommendations for a settlement.

## BBC steps up broadcasts

By Kenneth Goshing

Many radio listeners in Argentina are contacting the British Embassy in Buenos Aires about the frequencies of BBC broadcasts to South America.

The embassy is acting for Britain during the Falklands dispute and Mr Domingo Valenzuela, organiser of the BBC's Latin American service, sees the calls for advice as "extremely encouraging". The BBC has recently stepped up its service in Spanish from four to five hours a day and South America also receives up to eight hours of English broadcasts from the World Service every day.

Mr Valenzuela said yesterday: "Our aim is to give objective information while trying always to put the British point of view. We go for interviews and information from our correspondents in Argentina and give reaction from other Latin American countries."

Radio stations in South America ring us up and we tell them the latest situation; and we put out interviews with journalists, academics and politicians.

"We have also had letters from Argentina which say things like: 'It does not matter what happens — I will go on listening to you because I believe what you say.'"

Mr Valenzuela said he believed the BBC gave a fair



Voice of home: Sarah Kennedy recording a radio request show for members of the Falklands task force.

account of what was happening and there was no evidence that the Argentine authorities were trying to jam broadcasts.

Broadcasts to the Falklands were stepped up last night from three a week to a daily transmission on short wave. Nearly 1,500 requests, including nearly 150 taped messages for islanders have already been received by the BBC.

A request programme for British task force troops was launched yesterday by the British Forces Broadcasting Service in conjunction with BBC External Services using the Ascension Island relay station.

It will go out three times a week and will be introduced by Sarah Kennedy, one of the presenters of the television programme *Game for a Laugh*.

## Here's one in the eye for Women's Lib.



The Sunday Times has a reputation for not pulling its punches.

That's what makes it food and drink for well over 4 million people every weekend.

Next Sunday's issue is no exception.

Despite Simon Winchester's incarceration in Buenos Aires, our Insight team continues its in-depth reportage of the Falklands Conflict.

While the Review carries the fascinating results of a specially-commissioned Mori Survey: "What hope for love and marriage?"

In the first of a 3-part series, our business Section tackles the ins and outs of the Unemployment problem. An enormous job in itself.

While 'LOOK', our new-style 'magazine within a magazine', examines the latest and perhaps the most powerful feminist movement to date... Self Defence.

News, Reviews, Business and the Arts. You'll find the best of all worlds, as ever, in next Sunday's Sunday Times.

Plus some pretty aggressive ladies, to boot.



Look. The magazine within a magazine.



FALKLANDS CRISIS 2

# Fleet goes into battle order after clashes

From John Witherow, on board HMS Invincible April 26

The Royal Navy task force has gone into battle formation for the first time after the attack on an Argentine submarine and the landing of marines on South Georgia. The fleet, which is still heading south, had made plans to transfer to the new positions some time ago, to prepare it against any kind of assault, whether from the air, sea or submarine, but this was no doubt given a greater sense of urgency by the outbreak of hostilities.

It now presents an impressive sight, with the aircraft carriers Hermes and Invincible surrounded by an array of frigates, destroyers and supply vessels, sailing through a leaden and calm South Atlantic. Other ships still remain off South Georgia with the invasion force.

As part of this defence, Harrier jets and Sea King helicopters are in a high state of readiness. While the helicopters plumb the ocean with sonar devices in search of hostile submarines, the Harriers are on 24-hour alert to intercept Argentine Air Force Boeing 707s, which have been dogging the task force for four days, gathering information about its make-up and position.

The warning from London that such aircraft would have "appropriate action" taken against them if they continued their reconnaissance flights seems to have been at least temporarily effective.

Until Sunday they had been flying on average twice a day, as close to the fleet as possible, and had been rapidly intercepted by armed jets. The fact that they may now be fired on, especially after the fighting in South Georgia, seems to have stopped these flights.

## How junta admitted the setback

From Our Own Correspondent Buenos Aires, April 26

The first admission by the Argentine Government that the British had launched a counter-attack on South Georgia came in a communiqué issued at noon local time (4pm British time).

It said: "Two British helicopters attacked Grytviken at 8.40 am, and a submarine has gone to defend the port. The attack was a flagrant violation of international law and of United Nations Resolution 502, and Article 3 of the Inter-American Treaty. The attack was repelled by troops."

Communique No 28, issued at 2 pm, said: "In the early morning of this morning, two British helicopters attacked an Argentine submarine that was on the surface at Grytviken unloading provisions, medicine and mail for troops and about 30 scrap-metal merchants, who were there to dismantle a whaling station. It has to be pointed out that a submarine on the surface has no means of defending itself."

Communique No 29, issued at 4 pm, said: "We are resisting their shells and machine-gun attacks. Our position will not be cracked. Diplomatically and militarily we are in a favourable position."

Communique No 30, issued at 7 pm, said: "After four hours of shelling from the destroyer Exeter, and machine-gun attacks by two helicopters, British forces have made a tactical retreat, and are now off Leith Harbour. Four British ships, including the Exeter, are off South Georgia."

Communique No 31, issued at 8 pm, said that the commander of the naval forces was destroying radio equipment, and was preparing for the last battle.

The final communiqué was issued after midnight, stating: "The military junta communicates to the people of Argentina that, for tactical reasons, they have cut communications with the naval forces operating at South Georgia. The apparent initial success of the British forces was based on their numerical superiority which does not mean that they are in complete control of the island."

"Our forces moved back to their initial positions and they continue fighting in good spirits. They have a moral superiority that comes from knowing that they are defending their own country."

## Explosive display

An Argentine company which specialises in the manufacture of aircraft bombs and parachutes has booked exhibition space at the Farnborough Air Show in September. The firm, Fabrica Militar de Aviones, decided to take part long before the invasion.

So far the Society of British Aerospace Companies, which organises the exhibition, has made no move to ban the company.

Apart from shooting the aircraft down, the Harriers would be able to fire their missiles, to show they meant business, to fly in front of the 707 and force it to follow in their stream, or to indicate that it should follow the Harrier by rocking its wings, an internationally accepted sign for an interception.

Lieutenant-Commander Nigel Ward, in charge of the Invincible's 801 Harrier Squadron, said his men were working harder than at any time on the voyage. "We're ready for whatever happens now, as anyone would be when they approach a war zone," he said.

The news of the attack on the Second World War Guppy submarine came as something of a surprise. It now appears that the submarine, the Santa Fe, may have sailed onto the middle of the final preparations for the assault by marines on the island. It was fired on about five miles north of Cumberland Bay, in South Georgia, and then went back to the port of Grytviken.

The landing took place sometime afterwards. Most crewmen on board HMS Invincible had not expected action so soon, and there was a mixture of reactions, some relief that the waiting was over and the tension eased, and some anxiety that the "honeymoon" period had ended, and a diplomatic settlement now seemed more remote.

Earlier, after the news of the attack on the submarine, the internal radio played "Don't cry for me, Argentina, I never loved you". A notice-board outside the wardroom, asking officers to pay their mess bills for March, also put the score-line: England 1-Argentina 0.

## Poll shows support increasing

By Our Foreign Staff

Public support for the way the British Government is handling the Falklands crisis is continuing to grow steadily, according to the latest opinion poll published last night.

The poll, which was carried out by the MORI organization for BBC television's Panorama programme just before the battle of South Georgia showed that 76 per cent of British adults were satisfied with the government's handling of the crisis, compared with figures of 60 and 68 per cent in two earlier polls taken by MORI during the past fortnight.

The Falklands crisis also appears to have helped the Conservative Party's popularity. According to last night's MORI poll 39 per cent of those interviewed would now vote Conservative compared with 33 and 36 per cent in the two previous polls. Support for Labour is now running at 32 per cent and for the SDP Liberal Alliance at 28 per cent.

As the crisis develops more Britons are now prepared to accept losses of life among British servicemen and Falkland islanders as they were to restore British administration over the islands.

Of those interviewed, 58 per cent would now accept the loss of servicemen's lives, compared with 44 per cent and 50 per cent in the two previous polls; and 46 per cent believe that the lives of Falkland Islanders would be a justifiable price to pay, compared with 36 and 37 per cent before.

Asked what type of military action the British government should take, 58 per cent of those questioned thought the Argentine ships should be sunk, but only 33 per cent would support the bombing of Argentine military and naval bases.

Mrs Thatcher's personal popularity appears to have remained intact. Sixty-four per cent say that their opinion of the Prime Minister is unchanged, 20 per cent say it has gone up and 15 per cent that it has dropped.

## Germans lead arms suppliers

By Our Foreign Staff

Britain's share of the Argentine arms market was below that of some other exporters for the period from 1977 to 1981, according to a statement from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

It puts West Germany at the head of the list, with 33 per cent of the total of major weapons delivered to Argentina. The West German military supplied warships and armoured vehicles.

"The UK share for the period was 10 per cent, made up of two type 42 destroyers and naval missiles. The UK, however, played a more important role as a supplier



Battleground: The whaling station at Leith Harbour which British troops yesterday recaptured

## Kinnock backs invasion

By Donald MacIntyre

The invasion of South Georgia was a "necessary and unavoidable action", Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour MP for Bedwelly, told the first trade union conference to discuss the crisis yesterday.

The union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers last night heavily defeated a Trotskyist-inspired resolution condemning the dispatch of the British fleet to the Falkland Islands as an act of "imperialist aggression".

But a heated and emotional debate was held over the issue, with some arguing that the invasion was a necessary action to resolve the dispute on the explicit grounds that it was outdated and that the executive could therefore "live with it".

The conference approved the resolution on a show of hands retrospectively opposing military action during the crisis.

It proposed to send a delegate to the Falkland Islands to ascertain how the inhabitants were faring, but Buenos Aires indicated that it regarded this as unnecessary. Now, an official said, the Argentine had agreed in principle to ICRC intervention "in view of increased tension in the South Atlantic".

## Reinforcements on the way

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary Bayleaf left Portland naval dockyard in Dorset yesterday to join the task force, followed by the assault ship Intrepid, sister ship of the Fearless, already in the South Atlantic.

Marines and crew lined the decks of the Intrepid, which has been undergoing trials in Portland for the past week. Earlier the ferry Europa left Portland with helicopters and paratroops, and the 13,000-ton Norfolk Ferry sailed from Portsmouth with 900 paratroops.

## Employers told of obligations

Employers throughout the country are being reminded of their obligations, should any of their employees, who are also armed services reservists, be mobilized as a result of the Falklands crisis.

A Confederation of British Industry spokesman in London said yesterday that they had written to all their affiliated associations spelling out the law concerning the release of reservists recalled for active duty and their reinstatement.

France was the third largest exporter of arms to the military government in Buenos Aires, with 15 per cent of sales. These included aircraft, missiles, vehicles and frigates. "Israel was responsible for 14 per cent of Argentina's major arms imports during this period," Israeli exports

## Special Boat Squadron in action Cockleshell heroes' cold snap

By Stewart Tendler

South Georgia's Argentine garrison has already learnt the significance of the Special Boat Squadron's motto of "Not by strength but by guile". Any attack on the main Falkland Islands will also almost certainly start with the infiltration of the skilled SBS teams.

As one former SBS officer put it yesterday, the Special Boat Squadron is trained to be "the eyes and ears of the amphibious fleet with an aggressive ability". Shy of publicity, like the SAS, their Army counterparts, the SBS has rarely achieved public recognition since their formation within the Royal Marines in 1943.

They are remembered as the "Cockleshell Heroes" for the canoe-borne raid on Nazi shipping at Bordeaux, but they also served in the Far East during the end of the war against Japan and then in Korea. SBS men took part in clandestine battles against the Indonesians in Borneo.

Their peacetime duties include the protection of North Sea oilfields and men from the SBS are to be found serving with commando units wherever the Royal Marines are posted.

The cold, inhospitable backlands of South Georgia and the Falklands are nothing new to men who have trained for the past decade in Nato exercises in Norway. There, the SBS teams, disguised as local fishermen

complete with locally registered boats. They came ashore from submarines in inflatable boats and canoes or swam to the beaches in the freezing water.

The essence of their 20-week training is to be totally confident in water — the unit's insignia is a frog with crossed paddles — so that they can perform functions varying from underwater demolition to landing unnoticed as they did on South Georgia.

Men picked for the squadron, an all-volunteer unit, usually have four or five years' experience with the Marines including commando training. They are capable not only of aquatic skills but survival in rough conditions on land and advanced parachuting. Two men parachuted into the Atlantic in 1972 to go on board the liner, Queen Elizabeth 2, when it was threatened by a hidden bomb.

Like the SAS, the SBS often operates in four-man teams composed of individuals with particular skills. The range of those skills is something the Ministry of Defence will not discuss but the marksmanship and survival techniques are regarded not as skills but necessities.

Physical fitness is not limited to daily exercise but a period of swimming as well, often in the sea, no matter what the time of year. In Norway they have paddled their canoes through force

seven gales and then come ashore swimming below the surface.

The Royal Marines who stormed South Georgia had been there before on exercises and put their detailed knowledge of the island to good use in overpowering the Argentine force (Craig Seton writes).

The men who went ashore initially were from M Company of the 42 Commando Regiment based at Plymouth, which in the past had taken part in joint service expeditions to the island. A Royal Marine officer said: "It is reasonable to assume that their knowledge of South Georgia was put to good effect."

The company, normally numbering about 110 men, was, it is understood, boosted to a strength of about 150 for the operation to include an MFC (motor fire controller) and possibly an extra anti-tank support.

The anti-tank weaponry would have been taken because of its suitability for knocking out any concrete gun emplacements the Argentines could have had, and for its comparative lightness and manoeuvrability.

It is estimated that over 5,000 Royal Marines and supporting units joined the task force and that many of them will now use South Georgia as a base for any further operations.

## Pound hit by nervous selling

By Frances Williams

The Bank of England was forced to intervene to prop up the pound overnight on Sunday as a wave of nervous selling hit the currency.

South Georgia invasion hit Far Eastern markets, the first to open after the weekend.

But lack of more military developments, and the Prime Minister's assurance that a diplomatic solution was still being sought, prompted some recovery later in Europe.

The pound finished London trading at \$1.7760, up 60 points from Friday, after touching \$1.75 in the afternoon. The dollar itself was weaker because fears of higher interest rates in the United States are receding.

Its trade-weighted index closed down 0.3 from Friday at 157.5, but up 0.5 from 1975 level, though well above its early level of 89.0.

Whitehall officials have denied reports that the Falklands military expedition had cost some £275m before the South Georgia landing. This compares with a total Ministry of Defence budget of about £14,000m. Unless the expedition's costs rise rapidly because of military action, the sums involved are probably small enough to be absorbed in existing budgets or within the contingency reserve, without the need to revise spending plans or increase taxes.

## Scientist speaks of 'courteous' captors

By David Nicholson-Lord

A leader of the British Antarctic Survey, held prisoner for two weeks after the Argentine capture of South Georgia, spoke in London yesterday of the team's "courteous" treatment by the Argentine authorities.

Robert Headland, a biologist and deputy base commander on South Georgia, described the prisoners' food of steaks twice a day as "remarkable and abundant", and said the authorities had rushed to install showers and heating in a temporary prison on the mainland.

"We arrived at the naval base at Puerto Belgrano at about 7.30 in the morning and the plumb line was used to install hot water and showers. But as it turned out, we were only there three nights," he said.

Mr Headland also said that, despite the capture of South Georgia, at the weekend, one loss caused by the Argentine occupation is irreparable: the gap in meteorological, magnetic and seismographic records.

Feather records have been kept continuously since 1905, and the others have been continuous since 1958.

Mr Headland, aged 37, the only member of the 13 survey team members and 22 Royal Marines captured on South Georgia on April 3 to speak Spanish, said 11 members of the team had been kept in custody on board the Bahía Paraíso survey ship. They were returned to Britain via Uruguay early last week.

They were allowed on deck for exercise for only two 10-minute periods during the time at sea but were allowed books and chess after a few days. They were warm because they were over the engine room.

Luggage and personal belongings were returned when they were released and the Argentines appeared scrupulous about ensuring that nothing was stolen. The only property to be taken away was "official" maps and charts that might be classified as intelligence.

Along with the Lieutenant commanding the Royal Marines, Mr Headland was interviewed by a judicial committee of the Argentine navy about the battle in South Georgia in which several

Argentines were killed. The committee indicated that the master of the corvette which was holed by rockets from the Marines was in trouble for apparently hazarding his vessel.

Mr Headland said the Argentines failed to answer repeated requests to define the status of the party — whether they were prisoners of war or hostages — and denied pleas for consular access. "But they seemed to want to ameliorate our position and make us as comfortable as possible," he said.

Mr Headland kept details of the group's imprisonment in a secret log using a notebook and pencil he smuggled on board the Bahía Paraíso. He drew on this for the material he supplied the Ministry of Defence officials during debriefing on the return flight to Britain.

The guards, who took away the Britons' trouser belts and shoelaces after the searches, seemed jumpy at first and had to be asked repeatedly to keep the safety catches on their machine guns and not to point directly at the captives, he said.

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## US to revive arms aid for Guatemala

From Paul Ellman, Washington, April 26

The United States is moving to align itself more closely with the new military government in Guatemala, and is planning to resume military aid to help the fight against leftist guerrillas, according to officials here.

Previous attempts by the Reagan Administration to resume military aid to Guatemala have foundered in the face of opposition from Congressmen already perturbed by the extent of the American commitment in neighbouring El Salvador.

Aid to Guatemala was suspended by the Carter Administration in 1977 after the regime headed by General Romeo Lucas Garcia refused to curb violations of human rights.

General Garcia was ousted in a coup last March 23 and replaced by a three-man junta headed by General Efraín Ríos Montt, a born-again Christian.

General Ríos Montt has made it plain that he regards his Christian values as applicable to Guatemalan politics. He has acted to improve the human rights situation by disarming the death squads which under his predecessor operated from an annex of the presidential palace, and by pressing hundreds of officials suspected of corruption.

Officials at the United States embassy in Guatemala City were initially reluctant to associate themselves with the new junta, partly because the coup which brought it to power was in protest against rigged elections on March 7 which resulted in the victory

of General Anibal Guevara, a former defence minister. The officials argued that the United States could not afford to suggest that any electoral process in Central America was open to suspicion when El Salvador was preparing for its own poll.

It was also felt that extreme right-wing elements in the Guatemalan military would not allow General Ríos Montt to press ahead with reforms.

The right, however, has so far proved remarkably acquiescent, despite the arrest of General Benigno Lucas Garcia, the popular army chief of staff, and appears to have accepted the argument that reforms are needed to secure American military aid.

Although Guatemala has spent \$90m (about £50m) on equipment from Israel and Argentina since 1977, the army has found itself under increasing pressure from left-wing guerrillas operating under the banner of Central American Revolutionary Unity.

The recession gripping all Central American countries has also made it increasingly difficult for Guatemala to replace worn-out equipment and purchase spare parts. According to officials in Guatemala City, the country's foreign exchange reserves to all intents and purposes ran out at the end of February.

As a consequence, the air force has on average been able to keep only two helicopters serviceable at any time in recent weeks.

## Stray shots blamed for riot deaths

From Our Correspondent Jakarta, April 26

Admiral Sudomo, the Indonesian security chief, today confirmed that six troops had been shot dead, 97 injured and 130 arrested when troops attempted to break up violent clashes on the fringes of a huge pro-Government election rally yesterday.

Admiral Sudomo told a press conference that troops had been given orders to fire in the air if the situation got out of hand, but that at several places where opponents of the pro-Government Golkar Party attacked with stones, knives and sticks, "there were some stray shots".

One policeman and one soldier, he said, were among the 97 injured, but a breakdown had yet to be made of how many were suffering from gunshot wounds or other injuries.

Those arrested for attacking Golkar vehicles and in some cases turning on the security forces, he said, were mostly supporters of the opposition Muslim Development Party.

In a thinly veiled criticism of Golkar, Admiral Sudomo said he had reminded all political parties to keep their campaigns manageable.

Admiral Sudomo said he would convene a meeting of the three-party election committee to discuss the final rally of the campaign scheduled by the small Nationalist Democratic Party on Wednesday before a Government-ordered "quiet week" immediately preceding the May 4 election.

The defiant social democratic leader is also the subject of a further investigation, along with 132 of his former deputies, over alleged ties with the Progressive Trade Unions Confederation whose 52 leaders face the death penalty at a trial in Istanbul.

## Revision proves Britain paid more to EEC

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg, April 26

Britain paid more into the EEC budget last year than it received according to the calculation placed on the negotiating table as officials got down once again to the technicalities of dividing how much Britain should pay in future.

A week ago a set of provisional figures from the European Commission showed that for the first time Britain had been a net beneficiary of the Community budget, receiving about £18m more than it paid in.

Behind the scenes British officials began to press for a new deal based on genuine risk sharing when the hard negotiations on the budget resumed among the ministers in the morning.

It is due to be a baptism in these complicated discussions for Mr Francis Pym, the new British Foreign Secretary, and he was to be briefed this evening by his officials.

## British nuclear test

New York, April 26. — A joint British-United States nuclear device was detonated beneath the Nevada desert yesterday, as part of series of weapons-related tests undertaken at the underground test site.

The American Department of Energy was at pains to point out that the test had absolutely nothing to do with the Falklands dispute. "These tests have to be set up months in advance," said Mr James Boyer, the department spokesman, "so it

couldn't have anything to do with Britain and Argentina." The device was between 20 and 150 kilograms in strength (a ton is equivalent to 1,000 tons of TNT). The explosion took place about 110 miles north-west of Las Vegas.

The test was requested by the British Government and carried out by the Americans under agreement for the use of atomic energy for mutual defence purposes. It is the 14th such joint test since 1962.



# No man's land pact may end Israel-Egypt rift

From Christopher Walker, Taba Bay, April 26

A provisional agreement was reached early this morning which will enable normal life to continue in this picturesque 600-metre-wide strip of the Red Sea coast which has recently been the cause of a sharply contested border dispute between Israel and Egypt.

The agreement effectively removed the last serious difference between the two countries which cast a shadow over yesterday's final Israeli withdrawal from occupied Sinai. It was signed at separate ceremonies in Jerusalem and Cairo presided over by Mr Walter Strossel, the American Deputy Secretary of State.

Under the terms of the agreement, the disputed stretch of sand and palm trees will become something of a no man's land while talks continue to determine which side has sovereignty. A joint committee will be established to determine the next stage in the negotiations, with the United States prepared to play a role if requested by both parties.

During the interim period, which officials believe could stretch for at least a year, the triangle of disputed coastline will be patrolled by troops from the new multinational Sinai peacekeeping force. Both Israeli and Egyptian citizens will be able to enter freely and a flourishing Israeli beach club opened after the 1967 war will remain in business.

The two sides have agreed that no new projects will be started in the land which commands a magnificent position overlooking the Gulf of Eilat towards the mountains of Jordan.

But work will continue on a multi-million pound resort hotel now nearing completion and owned by a consortium of Israeli and foreign businessmen.

Despite the agreement there was still confusion at the new border crossing today with both Egyptians and Israelis urgently trying to establish what the status of the area would be. By evening no one had been allowed to cross because Colonel Muhammad Farouk, chief of the Egyptian immigration team, claimed that facilities were not yet ready.

The first problem in the sensitive new relationship came early when Colonel Farouk was approached by his Israeli opposite number and asked to allow a Bedu tribesman back to his Sinai home. It materialized that the Arab had been having his car repaired in the Israeli town of Eilat and was unaware of the territorial handover.

Colonel Farouk who looked well versed in the complexities of Egyptian bureaucracy, announced flatly that for the moment nothing could be done. "Our text is not yet put up so we cannot consider his papers," he said. "But I am sure that in the end everything will be all right. The Israelis are our brothers now."

Later it was learnt that the border crossing will not open until tomorrow. A group of about a dozen Egyptian police and tourist officials are now based at a new tent encampment erected at the Israeli beach club.

□ Tel Aviv: Palestinian Arab demonstrations against the Egyptian-Israeli peace were broken up in the West Bank

today by soldiers and police with truncheons, tear gas and gunfire (Moshe Brilliant writes).

An Arab teenager and a nine-year-old boy were injured in Yamun, near Jenin. Israeli sources said they were shot after the older victim had threatened a soldier with a knife.

Schools in West Bank towns considered hotbeds of radical nationalism were shut as a precaution by the military Government. Curfews were imposed in West Bank villages as well as in Rafah, the town straddling the Sinai border divided yesterday by the peace treaty.

□ Moscow: The Soviet leadership today called the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai a farce which had nothing to do with the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East (Michael Binyon writes).

A statement, issued by Tass, said the Israeli occupation of Sinai was being replaced by an American occupation. It said the United States would acquire a jumping-off ground for direct interference in the affairs of Middle East states and those in adjacent regions.

"The character of the 'change of guard' in Sinai, a character hostile to the Arabs, is not in the least weakened by the fact that the American soldiers there will be supported by soldiers of Atlantic block. The peoples of the Middle East remember well the sway of the colonial powers on their soil. The Arabs know better than anyone else how much time and effort was needed to drive the colonialists out."

## Japanese prince 'may quit court'

Tokyo, April 26. — Prince Tomohito, seventh in line to the Japanese throne, has expressed his desire to live as a commoner, the imperial household agency said today.

The Oxford-educated prince, aged 36, a nephew of Emperor Hirohito, has said informally that he hopes to leave the imperial family and live as a commoner, an agency official said. He was unable to say why the prince wanted to do so.

Prince Tomohito, who is married and has a baby daughter, was admitted to the Red Cross medical centre here yesterday suffering from accumulated fatigue since early April, the official added. The Prince, eldest son of Prince Mikasa, younger brother of the emperor, is undergoing medical examination.

Press reports have said he wants to devote himself to social welfare work for the physically handicapped, free from official duties and without imperial status.

The imperial household agency has not received any formal request from Prince Tomohito and so has no plans to act, the official said.

Secession from the imperial family must be approved by an imperial household council, whose members include the Prime Minister and supreme court judges.

Prince Tomohito's father was dubbed The Red Prince by the press in the 1950s for his campaign against the revival of emperor-worship in Japan and because he was the only member of the royal family to break through the ranks of imperial courtiers and mix freely in Japanese public life.

## Poles ready for deal with church

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, April 26

As Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the Polish Primate, travelled to Rome today there were strong indications that the Polish Government was prepared to enter into serious negotiations with the church in an effort to solve the problem of Solidarity, the suspended independent trade union and secure a national accord.

Before leaving Warsaw airport, the Primate said that there was some chance of women internees being released soon. "There is a hope for that," he said. In fact, a number of Solidarity experts and released internees have been told that the Government is actually ready to release several hundred interned women and intellectuals in early May, apparently as a sign of good will towards the church which has consistently appealed for an end to internment before serious talks could begin.

The Primate saw General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader yesterday for a brief meeting during which the need for a front of national understanding was emphasized by the General. The church advisers say, is reluctant to give away too much ground to fast. But both sides, particularly the Pope and General Jaruzelski are anxious to defuse the crisis by instituting talks.

General Jaruzelski has to demonstrate to the hardliners that dialogue pays dividends. The church has to ensure that the splits in Polish society do not become permanent and that it is not viewed as an obstacle to negotiations.

The Government is thus expected, around May 3, Constitution Day, to go some way towards meeting church preconditions by releasing a substantial number of internees, easing the surface effect of martial law (including perhaps the curfew) and by showing that it can incorporate Solidarity into the public discussion on the future of trade unions.

Thus last weekend a number of Solidarity advisers met Government officials to talk about the future shape of the union movement and one newspaper, *Zycie Warszawy*, has published a letter from former Solidarity activist critical of the Government.

The same newspaper today indicated that a front of national accord was within sight, reflecting the political leanings of the newspaper's deputy editor, Mr Janusz Stefanowicz, a lay Catholic parliamentarian who has shown himself generally sympathetic to the regime.

The problem is whether this all adds up to more than theatre. Although talks may start, there is not much scope for further concession on fundamental issues. The church for example would like to see democratically elected local elections but the party would have great difficulties recognizing this possibility.

Two key elements are out of the discussions, the bulk of the Solidarity leadership and the tough ideologically inclined Marxists in the Communist Party.

The latter could still thwart even the most sophisticated national agreement by refusing to accept anything that challenges the "leading role" of the Communist Party, and the talks seem to be conducted more on behalf of Solidarity than with them.

Above all, the radical Solidarity leaders are unlikely to accept any agreement that neutralizes the union. Rome: Archbishop Glemp said on arrival here that "the church wants peace and dialogue with all parts of society." (Reuters reports). Asked whether this should include Solidarity, he replied: "We want to create a climate for a real dialogue together with all expressions of society. This is our desire."

## Chinese planning a big reshuffle

Peking, April 26. — Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, said today a big government reshuffle would be announced shortly to complete the first stage of his plans to streamline China's 20 million-strong bureaucracy.

The New China news agency said Mr Zhao submitted plans for the reshuffle to the standing committee of the National People's Congress, China's Parliament for approval. It quoted him as saying the 52 former ministries and commissions under the State Council (Cabinet) would be reduced to 41 and some deputy prime ministers would be removed.

The Government has already said that the number of deputy prime ministers will be cut from 13 to two. It appeared that Peking was not willing to announce the names of those affected until the plans were approved by the current standing committee meeting. This was expected to end within the next week or so.

Last month, in the first stage of Mr Zhao's restructuring, four ministers were dismissed and several Government departments merged. He said today that any changes not covered by his latest proposals would be mostly carried out within the next month.

Meanwhile President Chao Di Benji of Algeria today began talks with Mr Zhao which are expected to focus on North-South relations and greater cooperation between developing countries.

□ Robert Maxwell, the British publisher said today he plans an English-language version of the works of Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese party leader including what he called a powerful interview with Mr Deng (Reuters reports).

Mr Maxwell said after a week's talks in Peking that he had reached agreement to publish the volume of selected writings and speeches under the Pergamon Press imprint.

## Daily News bargaining to resume

From Nicholas Hirst, New York, April 26

Talks to save the troubled *Daily News* New York, the largest circulation daily newspaper in the United States, are set to resume this week.

Mr Joe Albritton, the Texas millionaire, has responded to an appeal by Mayor Edward Koch of New York to continue his negotiations to buy the paper by asking for an extension on his purchase option from the present owners, the Tribune Company of Chicago, which was to expire on Friday.

In doing so he dropped his own deadline for the negotiations with the newspaper's 11 unions which was to have expired at midnight last night.

Mr Albritton, who has been described as the buyer of last resort by the Tribune group, broke off negotiations with the unions last week because they were not prepared to make the concessions he wanted.

The Tribune Company has said it will take steps to close the loss-making *Daily News* if Mr Albritton's negotiations with the unions fail.

But Mr Rupert Murdoch, publisher of the rival *New York Post*, whose group also owns *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, continues to Sunday in the wings. Mr Bertram Powers, the head of the printers' union, said that Mr Murdoch told him that he would make an offer for the *Daily News* as good as Albritton's or better if Mr Albritton's bid failed.

## Prisoners of conscience

Dr Mamadou Gologo, a journalist and member of the former ruling party, the Union Soudanaise-Rassemblement Democratique Africain (US-RDA), is serving a four-year prison sentence for "offending the head of state" and for "secret information".

Dr Gologo was a government minister in Mali under President Modibo Keita before the military coup of 1968.

The politician was one of seven men arrested in April, 1973, after the publication of a pamphlet criticizing the newly formed sole political party, the Union Democratique du Peuple Malien. He is said to have been tortured with electric shocks and beaten.

After six months in detention three of Dr Gologo's fellow prisoners were freed. On October 2, 1979, the remaining four were brought to trial and sentenced to prison terms. Dr Gologo received the maximum of four years.

## Salvador bishop speaks out

San Salvador. — Mig Arturo Rivera y Damas, El Salvador's acting archbishop, said he was troubled that the right-wing had secured control of the top posts in the country's constituent assembly.

In an address at the Metropolitan Cathedral he said the development had diminished what he called the joy of the Salvadorean people who elected the assembly on March 28 despite left-wing guerrilla gunfire.

There was concern that the assembly could come under conservative pressure to roll back agrarian and nationalisation reforms introduced during the past two years. The church would denounce any attempt to cripple the reforms, and called for them to be continued and deepened.

## Kadar arrives in Bonn

Bonn. — Mr Janos Kadar, the Hungarian party leader, arrived here for the first visit by an East European statesman to the West since the military takeover in Poland.

His talks with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, and other West German leaders over the next two days will be dominated by the problems of East-West relations after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the events in Poland.

## Mengele 'near to capture'

Newport Beach, California. — Herr Simon Wiesenthal (above), the hunter of Nazi criminals, has told Jewish leaders he was much closer to catching Dr Josef Mengele, the physician reported to have conducted macabre experiments on Jews in Nazi concentration camps.

He said Dr Mengele was moving between Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay. "We have two South Americans following him and a \$100,000 (\$55,000) reward out. Anyone can sell him out, even his bodyguards. This money will help us to arrest him and bring him to trial."

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## Monument to Armenians

The French Government has given approval for a second monument to be built in memory of Armenians killed in the genocide of 1915, a spokesman at the French Interior Ministry said.

The monument will be near the Champs-Elysees. Armenian nationalists accuse the Turks of killing 1.5 million of their countrymen in Turkey in 1915. The Turks dispute the number.

## Judges strike

Beirut. — Lebanon's 340 judges have gone on strike for a long-awaited 40 per cent salary increase. They say striking is the only way to get the government to heed their demands, but the strike seems to have little significance here where the enforcement of sentences is often difficult and sometimes impossible.

## Volcano erupts

Tokyo. — Mount Asama, a volcano in central Japan, erupted for the first time in nine years and a thin layer of volcanic ash settled over parts of Tokyo, turning white the dark uniforms of policemen on traffic duty. No injuries or damage were reported after the two eruptions.

## Return of Sinai Egypt gains desert treasure

Cairo, April 26. — Regaining the last of its lost land in Sinai will give Egypt an immense boost to national pride and hopes of bounty from natural treasures in the wilderness.

The 25,000 square miles of barren rock and sand now show much greater promise of riches than they did when Israel seized them in the Six-Day War of 1967.

Oil, natural gas, manganese and coal are believed by experts to be there for the taking. During their 15-year occupation the Israelis have shown how water can be wrested from the rocks to create harvest fields amid yellow wastes.

The breathtakingly beautiful southern shores of Sinai with their exotic fish and multi-coloured coral, are spread out in welcome for the tourist trade.

Egypt has already received back two thirds of Sinai under interim arrangements stipulated in the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Since then a two-lane road tunnel has been built under the Suez canal just north of Suez, providing swift access to Sinai from Cairo.

The tunnel, and two more planned, will feed develop-

ment projects designed to turn the barren tracts populated by about 175,000 people into a thriving home for 500,000 Egyptians by the end of this century.

Many of these hopes are pinned on future discoveries of oil and natural gas. The Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation has already granted exploration concessions to six foreign companies. Other vast stretches of Sinai are open for offers.

Egyptian officials hope much of Sinai's north coast will yield natural gas fields like those discovered off the Nile Delta.

Manganese is expected to be Sinai's next most important mineral resource and estimates have put the size of Sinai coal deposits at 35 million tonnes.

Some of this coal will be used to fuel a projected 1,200-megawatt power station on the north coast at El Arish, Sinai's biggest town, which was handed back nearly three years ago. The plant will cost \$650m (£365m) and take six years to build.

Although hard-pressed for cash, the Egyptian Government is devoting substantial resources to Sinai. The housing Ministry has allo-

cated 52m Egyptian pounds (£35m) for building in Sinai construction during this fiscal year.

Other government allocations amount to about \$400m, most of it earmarked for what are called projects of national priority.

Egypt has already established an overseas hotels and tourist services company to open up new enterprises in Sinai. Some \$143m has been allocated to buy the three main tourist attractions left behind by Israel. These are a hotel and diving school at Sharm el-sheikh and two holiday villages further up the Sinai coast at Dahab and Neviot.

The new company says staff has already been selected and reservations can now be made.

To carry tourists to Sinai from the rest of Egypt a new airline, Air Sinai, has been formed. A fleet of buses has been assigned to move tourists between resorts.

Under the Israelis, the beaches of Neviot, Dahab and Sharm el-Sheikh became famous for nude bathing. "We shall not," one Egyptian official said, "be permitting that." — Reuters.

## Ministers switched by Schmidt

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, April 26

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, called on President Carl Carstens tonight with the list of new ministers and other top government appointments in his long-awaited Cabinet reshuffle.

The changes, to be formally announced tomorrow, are reliably expected to involve three new ministers and a switch-around of other senior officials to bring trusted and experienced people back into key posts close to the Chancellor.

The most important and most controversial move is the appointment of Herr Manfred Lahnstein, previously head of the Chancellery, to the post of Finance Minister. He takes the place of Herr Hans Matthöfer who for health reasons is being moved to the less strenuous job of Post Minister.

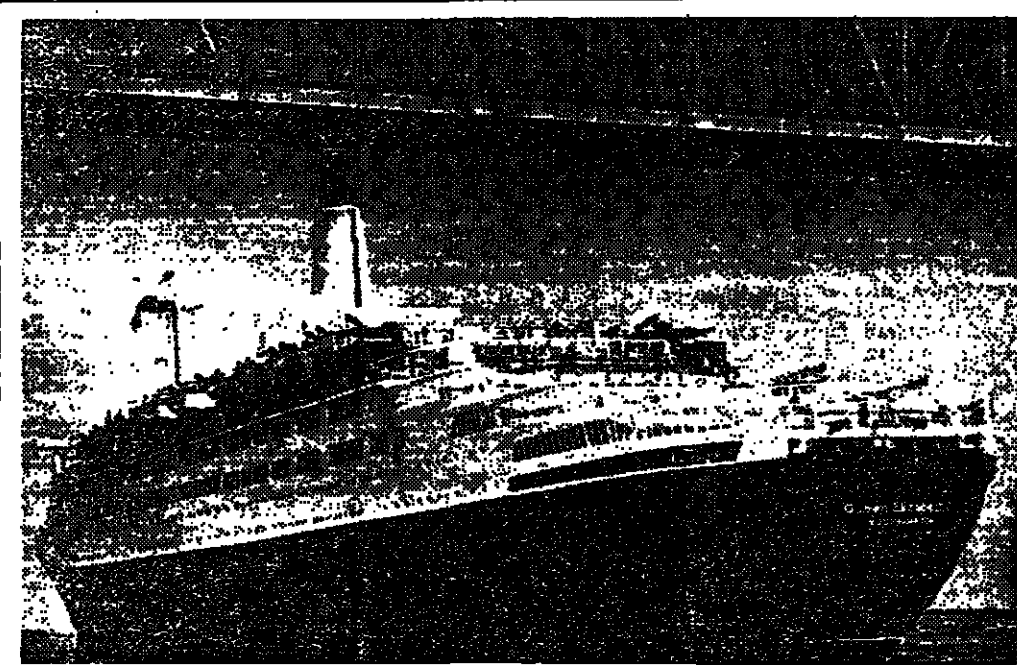
Herr Lahnstein, although a Social Democratic Party member, is a civil servant, not a member of Parliament, and the expected appointment aroused much antagonism.

Herr Heinz Westphal, a former aircraft mechanic and party finance expert, will become Labour Minister in place of the unpopular and colourless Dr Herbert Ehrenberg.

Frau Anke Fuchs, a former junior minister at the Labour Ministry and once described by Herr Schmidt as future Chancellor material, becomes Health and Family Minister in place of Frau Antje Huber who recently resigned.

The reshuffle comes as something of an anti-climax compared with the general expectations over the past weeks. The Chancellor's task was made extremely difficult by diabolical leaks and speculations and the whole episode gave an impression of confused and weak leadership.

One Cabinet minister is reported to have remarked: "A reshuffle is something that should be done, not talked about."



Birthday visit: The Queen Elizabeth 2 just clears the Commodore Barry bridge as she sails up the Delaware river at Philadelphia to join the city's tricentennial celebrations.

## Protest in Seoul after Bush praises regime

Seoul, April 26. — Hundreds of riot police tonight broke up an anti-government demonstration outside a Seoul cathedral hours after the visiting United States Vice-President, Mr George Bush, passed on American praise to the South Korean authorities.

Earlier today he handed a letter to President Chun Doo Hwan from President Reagan, congratulating the Seoul government for its steps towards national reconciliation.

The demonstration occurred after a mass for a priest arrested for alleged involvement in an arson attack on a United States cultural centre. The mass was attended by more than 2,000 Koreans crowded into Myongdong Cathedral. At the Mass, Archbishop Yoon Kong Hi criticized the Government for detaining Fr Choi Ki Shik, who was accused of sheltering suspects. — Reuters.

## Key West mouse roars at federal big cats

From Michael Miller, New York, April 26

Key West, the southernmost town in the United States, has seceded from the nation and declared war on America in a real-life sequel to the film *The Mouse That Roared*.

Residents of the island town are angry with the federal Government over a roadblock set up by the United States Border Patrol on the only road leading from the mainland.

It was set up on Interstate Route 1 in an attempt to stem the flow of drugs and illegal immigrants that enter the country by landing on the string of islands that comprise the Florida Keys.

The resulting 19-mile long traffic jam deterred hundreds of motorists on their way to Key West, who turned round and went back home or decided to spend their holidays elsewhere. This, say the townspeople, cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue.

We're seceding, since the United States Government has seen fit to treat us like some inferior country, Mr Dennis Wardlow the mayor of Key West, who now has the self-endowed title of Prime Minister of the Republic of Conch, said.

"Tourism is our lifeblood industry and the roadblock causes a traffic jam along the only highway leading to our city. We regard this as an act of tyranny against the Keys, and the only way to get any attention is to secede from the Union."

Two key elements are out of the discussions, the bulk of the Solidarity leadership and the tough ideologically inclined Marxists in the Communist Party.

The latter could still thwart even the most sophisticated national agreement by refusing to accept anything that challenges the "leading role" of the Communist Party, and the talks seem to be conducted more on behalf of Solidarity than with them.

## Hostility feared during Thai visit

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok, April 26

General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Thai Prime Minister, who arrives in Britain tomorrow for an official visit, hopes to talk mainly about trade and investment, but some senior Thai officials fear there may be demonstrations against him because of Thailand's controversial social and political problems.

One official said he hoped the visit would not be marred by hostility aroused by recent publicity about child labour and enforced prostitution in Thailand.

While admitting those abuses did occur, he complained they had been misrepresented in British press and television reports which had been full of hypocrisy. Anyone would think, he said, that such a thing as prostitution did not exist in Britain.

The reports he referred to gave instances of girls as young as 10 being kept prisoner in brothels, and even younger children locked

up to work in "hell factories".

The Thai authorities are also embarrassed by reports that they are holding political prisoners. According to the Lawyers' Association of Thailand, five political prisoners have disappeared in the past year while in custody and 12 others are being held without trial.

General Prem, who became Prime Minister two years ago towards the end of a distinguished military career, has vowed to steer Thailand to full democracy, which should be realized next year when elections will be held for both Houses of Parliament. At present the Upper House is appointed by the Government.

General Prem, who has never stood for election, has not yet said whether he will do so next year. The question is the most crucial in Thai politics.

In Britain General Prem

will seek improved access for Thai exports which are overvalued by British exports to Thailand by more than 100 per cent. He will also emphasize investment opportunities available to British companies under the fifth national economic and social development plan, which came into effect last October. Chief of these are petro-chemical projects, new plants for processing agricultural products, and other manufacturing in the new industrial region planned for the eastern seaboard south-west of Bangkok.

General Chatichai Choonhayan, Minister of Industry, who is accompanying General Prem, hopes to sign a contract with a \$300m extension to a big oil refinery south of Bangkok. The work will produce a significant number of design and construction jobs in Britain, according to Thai and British officials.



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Salvador bishop speaks out

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Mengele 'near to capture'

Monument to Armenians

Polish strike

Volcano erupts

Thai visit



# Britain still seeking a negotiated settlement

## FALKLANDS

The repositioning of South Georgia, including the attack on the Argentine submarine, in no way altered the Government's determination to achieve a negotiated settlement to the present crisis, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in a statement in the House of Commons on the Falkland Islands.

We seek the implementation of the Security Council resolution (the said), and we seek it by peaceful means if possible. I am sure the House will join me in congratulating our forces on carrying out this operation successfully and recapturing the island. The action we have taken is fully in accord with our inherent right of self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

Mrs Thatcher said that in their continuing pursuit of a negotiated settlement, Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, visited Washington on April 22 and 23. He had many fruitful discussions with Mr Haig. Their talks proved constructive and helpful, but there are still considerable difficulties. Mr Haig now intends to pursue his efforts further with the Argentine Government.

However, the Argentine Foreign Minister is reported to be unwilling to continue negotiations at present. I hope he will reconsider this. As the British task force approaches closer to the Falklands, the urgent need is to speed up the negotiations, not slow them down. We remain in close touch with Mr Haig.

The first phase of the operation to repossess South Georgia began at first light when the Argentine submarine was detected close to British warships preparing to land forces on South Georgia.

The United Kingdom had already made it clear to Argentina that any approach on the part of Argentine warships, including submarines, or military aircraft which could amount to a threat to the British task force would be met by the appropriate response.

The Santa Fe posed a significant threat to the successful completion of the operation and to British warships and forces launching the landing. Helicopters from the British task force therefore engaged and disabled the Argentine submarine.

Just after 4pm London time yesterday, British forces landed on South Georgia and advanced towards Grytviken.

At about 6pm the commander of the Argentine forces in Grytviken surrendered, having offered only limited resistance to the British troops. British forces continued to advance during the night and now in control of Leith, the other main settlement on South Georgia.

At 10 o'clock this morning the officer commanding the Argentine forces on South Georgia formally surrendered.

British forces throughout the operation used the minimum force necessary to achieve a successful outcome. No British casualties have been notified and it is reported that only one Argentine sustained serious injuries.

About 180 prisoners were taken, including up to 50 military reinforcements who had been on the Argentine submarine, the prisoners will be returned to Argentina.

British Antarctic Survey personnel on the island were reported to be safe when we last heard early yesterday morning. Our forces are making contact with them and arrangements are in hand to evacuate them, if they so wish.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Edinburgh, West, Lab), said that the Prime Minister's statement was a welcome sign of the country's anxiety to resolve the crisis.

On the South Georgia issue, the whole country, I am sure, will be relieved that the operation was carried through without loss of life on our side or serious injury on either side.

We are entitled to stress to all concerned that the recapture of South Georgia was fully within our international rights. (Cheers)

It was not a breach of the Charter in any way, and some have falsely alleged. It may help us in other fields, particularly in view of the extreme skill with which it was executed.

The Falklands and South Georgia are two different propositions as I am sure the House and the country understand. The most important and persistent question remains and is intensified, and I put it in the light of what the Prime Minister

has said. How are we to pursue the search for the diplomatic and peaceful settlement to which she refers? What is to happen next?

When she talks of speeding up the negotiations, what steps is the Government taking to speed up the negotiations? What stage has the mediation of Mr Haig reached and what happens if the mediation is not able to be pursued?

We have so far refused to go back to the Security Council. When are we going to return to the Security Council on all these matters?

How are we going to be absolutely sure in the meantime that there will be no dangerous escalation of the crisis in any way? In such a situation it must be absolutely without any possibility of mistake whatever.

We on this side remain as firmly, unshakably and persistently committed to fresh initiatives for a peaceful settlement and if one initiative fails then another has to be started. (Labour cheers)

Conservative interventions in the meantime, let us take account of the fact that what is legal is not necessarily also prudent.

The search for peace must never be torpedoed by us. I believe this House can play a considerable part in ensuring that that spirit should inform all our actions that are taken.

He asked the Prime Minister not merely to agree to report to the House but to report in greater detail than had been the case so far about the negotiations and the possible options. There was still much to be reported to the House on these questions.

The House should keep a persistent control over what the Government proposed and intended. The Prime Minister should report to the House here and now. (Labour cheers)

Mrs Thatcher: He says people are anxious. We share that anxiety in the search for a diplomatic settlement. It is, after all, a diplomatic mission that we are undertaking.

We naturally are ready and anxious to report to the House on these negotiations and stay

constantly in touch with Mr Haig. I hope Mr Costa Mendez will reconsider his decision not to see Mr Haig and will see him shortly. If not, Mr Haig can communicate with the Argentine government through the UN.

On the UN, it is their Security Council resolution which we want implemented. But I think it is generally felt that the UN is not the best way to achieve this.

Most people there reckon the best hope of a peaceful solution is through the negotiations with Mr Haig. We must continue those negotiations with all possible speed.

Yes, of course we search for peace. We did not break the peace. (Conservative cheers) We must remember that while we are searching for peace, the British people are under the occupation of the Argentine invasion.

We must remember that in the way in which we carry out these negotiations.

Mr Foot: We will do that, but we should have another debate this week. We are entitled to it, particularly in the light of the replies about what is to be done about getting negotiations going.

She only had one half sentence on that and that we are keeping in touch with Mr Haig. That is all she has to say about the actual way in which we are making some effort to get the negotiations going.

She will agree to the debate and give us a much more responsive reply on that aspect.

Mrs Thatcher: I trust he will

persue that through the usual channels. I cannot give him details of negotiations while they continue but we do pursue them as vigorously as we possibly can. After all, we are asking for withdrawal of the Argentine troops in accordance with the Security Council resolution.

Sir Derek Walker-Smith (East Hertfordshire, C): Will she clarify the position on reference of the dispute to the International Court of Justice, a matter mentioned in *The Times* and other newspapers?

Subject to Argentina's prior withdrawal of troops in conformity with Resolution 502, it is the Government's policy to refer the dispute or suggest reference of it to the court in accordance with the Charter and the statute of the court? Is it unhappy, there should be a drift to war without any attempt at arbitration, which is clearly envisaged in the Charter, and might it not condemn?

Mrs Thatcher: I believe we referred the matter of the Falkland Islands to the International Court in 1955. But both parties have to agree to go to the court for it to adjudicate. We took it. The Argentine did not agree to the jurisdiction of the court with regard to the dependencies. So it is not for any lack of consent on our part that it has not gone to the court.

Mr David Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, SDP): We fully and unequivocally support the decision to refer the matter to the court. (Cheers) We congratulate the Services and Servicemen who took great risks.

With the next meeting of the OAS taking place in Washington today it is right to give Mr Haig a few more days, the time is approaching when the United States, if they are unable to make any movement, will have to make a decision to apply economic sanctions.

Can we have an assurance that before any major escalation of violence, the Prime Minister will refer the matter to the United Nations and discuss under articles 82 and 83 — those relate to secure trust areas which would allow for British administration of the islands? These provisions for any interim administration?

Mrs Thatcher: It is implementation of the United Nations resolution which the United States is not in a position to implement itself. It is right, at the moment, to continue through Mr Haig to try to seek a peaceful solution.

On the future course of negotiations, time is getting extremely short as the task force approaches the island. It is generally felt that the resolution, one cannot just have a wide range of choices, of military options with a task force in the sea for that peace on people.

Mr Mark Carleton (Runcorn, C): Is she aware of the overwhelming support that exists in the United States for the action we have taken and the overwhelming understanding by many members of Congress and others of the fact that the principle at stake is as important to America as to the western world and this country?

Mrs Thatcher: I believe the American people know the unprovoked aggression must not be allowed to succeed. If it does, there would be no international law and many people would fear for their future.

Mr Tony Benn (Bristol, South-East, Lab): Public opinion, as far as I can be obtained, is in favour of a more vigorous attempt at negotiation through the United Nations than has occurred and a majority of people would not favour the Government's intervention with the Argentine which would threaten the loss of many lives including servicemen and Falkland Islanders.

If the Prime Minister continues to underestimate the importance of negotiations and proceeds with the war, responsibility for loss of life will rest on her shoulders.

Mrs Thatcher: There is no lack of vigour or will in pursuing negotiations on the part of the Government. The lack of vigour on the islands are under the heel of the Argentine invader.

Mr John Poynton (Yeovil, C): Few things could do more to bring support to the action we are taking than the Government's taking the thoroughly mischievous question which has just been asked.

Mr Arthur Bottomley (Teesside, Middlesbrough, Lab): Since the attitude do Commonwealth countries, and the countries of the West Indies in particular, take towards Government policy.

appears, for a reason I do not understand, that no complaint was made in the first place.

**Elderly judges do their job impartially**

The Government did not intend to introduce new legislation on the appointment and dismissal of judges. Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, said when asked if he would do so. He said the three judges over retirement age carried out their work impartially and fairly.

Mr Dennis Canavan (West Dorset, Lab): Asked why does the Government not introduce a Bill to force the long-overdue retirement for some of the older judges who are using their judicial positions to overrule the wishes of the elected representatives of the people on things like public transport fares and subsidies?

Sir Michael Havers: The three judges who are over the existing retirement age — two English and one Scottish — cannot be described in any way by those objectives so poisonously used by the DPP to consider.

The first I heard of this was reading it in the newspapers. The delay was not the fault of either the DPP or anybody else, but it



Carlisle: Support in US

Johnston: All-party talks

Mrs Thatcher: Commonwealth countries have been most helpful in condemning the unprovoked aggression by the Argentine. Many have stopped imports from the Argentine and New Zealand has sent a strong message of support to the United States Government.

Mr Russell Johnson (Inverness, Lab): She has emphasized several times that we are not in a position to take any action until we have more information. Will she consider the suggestion made by the leader of the Liberal Party that we should consider the possibility of a limited military intervention?

Mr Russell Johnson: I am not in a position to say or suggest anything to the Government. I am not in a position to say or suggest anything to the Government.

Mr Julian Amery (Brighton, Pavilion, C): We cannot keep the task force treading water indefinitely at the mercy of the Atlantic storms or the changing tide of political opinion? Having achieved the first success, we must as soon as all preparations are ready, proceed with the next stage as soon as possible.

Mrs Thatcher: Time is short because of the distance from home and because the task force is now approaching these islands. We must take that into account and everything possible to speed up these negotiations. I hope that message will reach the Argentine Government.

Mr Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea, North, Lab): There is a far better prospect of an acceptable negotiated settlement if we fully exercise our inalienable right to use force.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, I am grateful to Mr Jay. We shall have a greater chance of getting a peaceful settlement if we bring greater military pressure to bear on the Argentine Government.

Mr Robert Rhodes James (Cambridge, C): We have done almost everything to negotiate a peaceful settlement between 1979 and the present. It is not us but the Argentines who are in infringement, not only of the principle but of the letter of the UN Charter.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, I confirm what he says. We are continuing in accordance with the UN Charter. We continue to seek a peaceful settlement. It is not us but the Argentines who are in infringement, not only of the principle but of the letter of the UN Charter.

Mr Michael Gyles (North-West Surrey, C): The Prime Minister's handling of this crisis has the support of the vast majority of the people of this country. It is important to continue to follow the policy of the stick and the carrot to show that we have no quarrel with the Argentine people but only with the actions of their government.

Mrs Thatcher: I accept completely that negotiations are more likely to succeed if military pressure is kept up. We have to consider the military options and in considering them to look after our soldiers and marines who have to undertake them.

the theatre simply do not know where they are. They thought they were given a ticket to the theatre. They thought they were subject to that Act and not to the sort of prosecution we have recently seen under the common law.

It is the responsibility of the Attorney General as a member of the Government to give to theatrical producers some sort of guidance as to when they are subject to those sort of prosecutions and what sort of certainty they can have.

Sir Michael Havers: They have the certainty that an offence would be considered an offence under the Theatres Act and they would be prosecuted with my consent or institution.

When one goes further — to take an example, a director determined to be totally realistic in the play *Leviathan* which insisted that the Soviet Union was a dictatorship during the course of the play that she was indecently assaulted — that would still be an offence under the Sexual Offences Act and clearly would be prosecuted as such.

**Law and too much realism on the stage**

There were no plans for discussions with the Director of Public Prosecutions about a policy of initiating or allowing prosecutions with regard to the statutory provisions relating to the content of theatrical performances, Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, said.

Mr Christopher Price (Lewisham, West, Lab): Since the unsatisfactory denouement of the recent Mary Whitehouse action in the courts, producers in

Mrs Thatcher: We are trying consistently to take initiatives to see that the negotiations continue. We shall carry on. I can only stress that there is only one thing which needs to be done immediately under the Security Council resolution and that is the withdrawal of Argentine forces.

Mr George Cunningham (Islington, South, Lib): Will she bring to the attention of the Argentine Government its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 about not obliging Falkland Islanders to remain in those parts of the Falkland Islands particularly subject to danger.

Mrs Thatcher: I will consider doing what he says. Many have left Port Stanley and have gone out to camp. There are far fewer in Port Stanley than there were.

Sir Bernard Braine (South-East Essex, C): While it is right and humane to return prisoners of war to the Argentine, will she give an assurance that if any of the thousands of Argentine and state of health of those men is made known to anxious relatives, in sharp contrast to the inhumane treatment by the fascist regime of the Argentine, who have disappeared in recent years, many of whom are dead?

Mrs Thatcher: Those prisoners are not prisoners of war. A state of war does not exist between the Argentine and the United Kingdom. They are prisoners. They will be returned as soon as possible.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab): It is now time for resolution and for Mrs Thatcher to earn the sobriquet "Iron Lady" and to stand against those voices calling for increasing violence and a drift to war.

Will she emphasize that we shall seek a negotiated settlement, and if that requires economic force we shall use it, and every sane person should be aware of that.

Mrs Thatcher: A number of countries have joined us in economic sanctions. They are slow to operate and will not be wholly successful as there is a good deal of leakage through third countries.

Resolution is required — resolution to make certain that unprovoked aggression does not succeed. (Cheers).

Sir Nigel Fisher (Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, C): Will she reconsider and suggest to the House that the Government might be appropriate now for them to impose economic sanctions against the Argentine, if only to show which side they are on? (Cheers)

Mrs Thatcher: I understand Sir Nigel's feelings and those of many MPs. Those economic sanctions would be of a kind and degree greater than any other that could be brought to bear, but I believe that Mr Haig thinks Mr Costa Mendez is only postponed.

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**Parliament today**

Commons (2.30): Finance: De-facto Prime Minister, Questions: Bill, Committee, third day. Lords (2.30): Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill, Committee, first day.

# Peer rebukes commentators

## HOUSE OF LORDS

After the statement on the Falkland Islands had been repeated in the House of Lords by Lady Young, Leader of the House, Lord Strickland, speaking for the Opposition, said: The Government is right to return to the Argentine prisoners to Argentina. I am delighted that South Georgia has been the first and most important objective. Much more than simply obtaining and repossessing a British settlement, it is a key place in relation to the conservation and in relation to the whole of the Antarctic.

Some of us have listened to radio and television commentators ask questions like "Are you not starting the hostilities?" We really must resist that. This is a peace-loving Government. Everything that has been done has been consistent and I am delighted the Government are still proceeding to seek a peaceful solution by negotiation.

It is to be hoped now that the United States Government will join in with our European allies with such necessary economic measures to make it clear that this particular exercise of bravado of the Argentine Government must come to an end. It must be clear to everyone we are not determined to drive off this aggression.

I hope the Government will not exclude involving the United Kingdom in the ultimate solution. Lord Gladwyn (L): The reoccupation of South Georgia, where

the Argentines had very few troops and no air cover, does not in itself make it much easier to reoccupy the Falkland Islands themselves, where they have air cover and approximately 7,000 troops. For the reoccupation of these islands should only be undertaken, if at all, in the last resort.

A blockade and economic sanctions would be the best way to reduce the garrison to ineffectiveness and bring the Argentine Government back to the negotiating table. Once negotiations have been resumed, and we are in a stronger position than we were before, will the Government consider the possibility of making some further concessions to the Argentine point of view?

The proposals made in the last House of Lords debate should be made public. Parliament should see whether it is happy with rejection or whether it should go a little further.

Lady Young: At this particular time there is no reason to suppose that further intervention on the part of the United Nations would be appropriate.

On further questions to the Argentines, the Government's position is that we cannot negotiate under duress and as a first step, the Argentine troops must leave the Falkland Islands.

Lord Aylestone (SD): Is the time now right for all-party talks to take place on the whole question of the current Falklands situation?

Lady Young: I take note of that. The Government is keeping Parliament informed of developments.

Lord Sainsbury (C): Repossession of South Georgia is a necessary step to the reoccupation of South Georgia, where

possible use in having terra firma for our forces, if required, in somewhat inhospitable waters. If it looks more likely that some degree of force will be necessary to the Falklands, if the Argentine Government refuses to negotiate, it will be necessary that the world understands why we are doing it. We should be seen to have taken all reasonable measures in negotiation.

Lady Young: There has been encouraging support from the rest of the world, notable the EEC and the Commonwealth. It is still our hope that we shall be able to reach a diplomatic solution in the present crisis, although we have not ruled out the use of force.

Lord Browne: We are still talking much too early about the use of force. A public crisis is the Falkland Islands. If we are to persuade the world that we are seeking negotiation and a peaceful solution before we arrive at a decision on the use of force, the Prime Minister to back off some of the statements which have implied the use of force, in particular the statement about the islanders' views being paramount?

So long as that says so, genuine negotiations seem to be unable to take place and the world will not be able to be persuaded we were freely negotiating about a possible alternative solution, in the power of veto is left in the hands of 500 families, most of whom are share crofters of the Falkland Islands Company.

Can we have a public crisis, the Government is backing off the statement that has implied itself and this country in a determination?

Lady Young: There have been two basic principles in this dispute: that aggressors should be deterred and the right to self-determination.

# Tories join attack on tax on jobless

## FINANCE BILL

An attempt to postpone the date from which unemployment pay becomes taxable was made by the Opposition when the committee stage of the Finance Bill was resumed.

Mr Robin Cook (Edinburgh, Central, Lab), a spokesman on Treasury and economics affairs, said the Government's proposal to postpone the date until such time "as the Government restores to the unemployed the 5 per cent unemployment benefit which was lost when the Government took from them two years ago on the basis that unemployment benefit was not subject to tax."

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab): It is now time for resolution and for Mrs Thatcher to earn the sobriquet "Iron Lady" and to stand against those voices calling for increasing violence and a drift to war.

Will she emphasize that we shall seek a negotiated settlement, and if that requires economic force we shall use it, and every sane person should be aware of that.

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**Investment turning corner**

The signs are that investment in manufacturing industry is turning the corner, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, said during questions in the House of Commons today. He expected an increase this year and a bigger increase in 1983.

Mr David Knox (Leek, C) had asked for the level of investment in the manufacturing industry in each of the last three years at constant prices.

Mr Jenkin: Including assets leased to manufacturers, at 1975 prices, the figures were £3,600m in 1979, £4,150m in 1980 and £3,600m in 1979, 1980 and 1981 respectively.

Mr Knox: These figures are evidence of a worrying decline in investment in manufacturing industry which will have an adverse effect on the future competitiveness in world markets of British goods.

There is a strong case, if this decline is to be reversed, for a substantial increase in domestic demand to persuade manufacturers that their investment is worthwhile.

going to be subject to income tax. The Government was doing the worst type of cheating. It was hitting out at the unemployed who could least afford to lose a single penny.

Mr Richard Needham (Chippenham, Wiltshire, Lab) asked for the reason behind the Government's attitude. If it was not given, however much Conservative MPs wanted to support the Government it would be impossible to do so, because the Government's long-term unemployed were as great as they had ever been and the numbers were getting greater.

The Conservative Party had never defended the position that those who could not care for themselves should suffer. It was high time that the Conservative Party, which had got itself into this mess took the opportunity offered today to put the matter right. The people who had been misled by the Conservative Party should be told that the Government should do that.

Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes, C) said he was amazed by the Government's attitude. His proposal was far from generosity and much more realism. This was a breach of the Tory party's principle that the unemployed should be treated as generously as possible.

Mr Andrew Bennett (Stockport, North, Lab) said if the Government could not restore the 5 per cent now it should defer the taxation.

Mr Peter Bottomley (Greenwich, Woolwich, West, C) said the situation was clearly the result of horse trading between the DES and the Treasury. The real problem was there had not been any ministerial intervention to undo the deal.

It would be sensible for the sponsors of the amendment to withdraw it so that MPs could have a far clearer opportunity of a full house and a full debate on the matter on report. Thus the Government's mind could be concentrated in the meantime.

It is the sad state of affairs that we are doing on this issue is wrong.

After the events in South Georgia, the Government had no

need to feel obliged to maintain its prestige and status by the extending the argument that £60m mattered so much.

Mr James Craigie (Glasgow, Maryhill, Lab) said the Chancellor seemed to be acting like the sheriff of Nottingham taking from the poor in order to give to the rich. There were many other measures which would add up to the £60m that was being taken.

Unemployment was not spread evenly over the country and there were areas where the present high level was going to remain for a good many years.

It was no longer just the manual workers being affected, there were architects, teachers and dentists finding themselves out of work. In view of the all-party support for the amendment he hoped the Government would take a fresh look at the position.

Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes, C) said the Government had only themselves to blame for the lack of support they received from Conservative back benches because what it was doing was plainly wrong.

It was applying double taxation to one of the most severely disadvantaged



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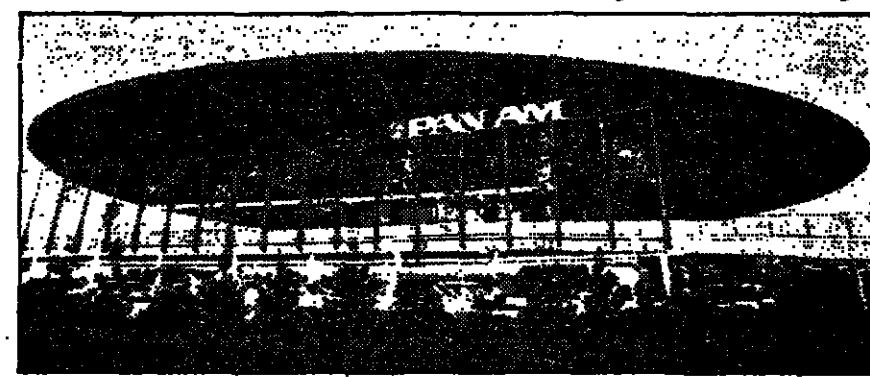
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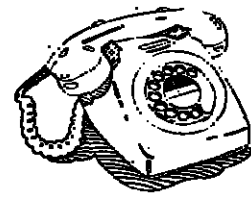
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# Why Argentina's generals need the Falklands

A journalist on *La Prensa*, the leading Argentine newspaper, explains the junta's thinking

Buenos Aires. Freedom can be a "secret" military operation, such as Argentina's invasion of the Falklands, have been so repeatedly predicted in the press. The Argentine government's intentions, and the reasons behind them, first appeared in my political column in the Buenos Aires newspaper *La Prensa* in January.

A few weeks later, when talks began in New York, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Mr Costa Mendez, expressly said that if Britain refused to recognize Argentine sovereignty, Argentina would resort to "other methods". This clearly spelt out the possibility of military intervention.

General Galtieri and other members of the government also privately warned members of the US government, some of whom, we understand, were sensitive to Argentina's motivations.

As Mr Reagan admitted, the trouble was that nobody — not the Soviet Union, least of all the British Foreign Office — believed that Argentina would fulfil its stated intention.

This explains, in part, London's over-reaction to a military action planned — perhaps uniquely in history — in such a way as not to harm or damage the enemy's men and material in any way, as in fact happened, at a cost of several Argentine lives.

What do the islands represent to Argentina? Whitehall claims that the recovery of the islands by Argentina is merely an expression of the military government's wish to consolidate its own position. True enough, the government has been affected by social unrest and a collapsing economy.

Perhaps certain sectors in government may have seen in this affair a way of staying in power, but the government also knew that the possibilities of total success, of obtaining something more than recognition of sovereignty, were limited and that in consequence the operation would do little towards their continued survival.

Nevertheless, if one wishes to explain their decision in terms of sheer egotism, perhaps one could say they tried to avoid something worse, like a war with Chile over the Southern territories, or a process of increasing tension with the Vatican, Chile and the United States over the Beagle Channel issue, to an unbearable degree. Because such a war or such tensions would — it is convenient to bear this in mind — not only endanger the generals' personal or sector interests, but also endanger Argentina's territorial integrity to a greater extent than the present conflict.

Because this is, in a nutshell, the basic objective behind the immediate recovery of the islands. This is also why the government decision is backed by people who, like myself, have been for years openly and firmly critical of the military government's performance, of lack of performance, particularly in respect of human rights.

If Argentina, the country with the largest south Atlantic coastline, cannot dispose right away of a strategic platform enabling it to participate — as it stresses, participate — to a certain extent in the region through which much of the West's oil and power supplies have to go, or to put it another way, a presence in the Euro-American defence

mechanism against Soviet penetration — and just by the South Pole and Antarctica it would soon lose its southern territories.

For Argentina, this is important enough to justify its encounter with Britain. The alternative would be a much longer and much bloodier war with Chile, or with Chile plus Brazil. This could happen before very long and could conceivably mean the end of Argentina as an independent state, or at least its definitive international isolation and its exclusion from an area which is indispensable to the development of the human race in the next century.

If London doesn't see things that way, it will never be able to evaluate the real significance of its conflict with Argentina, nor ready this country is to fight. Nor will it be able to evaluate the cost of beating Argentina, even if it can do it, which is not at all certain.

Naturally, one of these considerations about Argentina's needs would be valid without the backing of international law. However, the islands were part of the Spanish Empire, which Argentina inherited after its war of independence. So much so that in 1833, when Britain occupied the territory by force, there was a Buenos Aires-based administration operating there. From that moment, and more insistently after the beginning of this century, Argentina has been demanding from Britain the return of this part of its sovereignty.

The islands, only 400 miles from Argentina's coastline, are a geographical continuation of the Argentine mainland. This history and geography give Argentina a right that can be claimed by no other nation, either South American or European.

This is why in 1966 the United Nations ordered London and Buenos Aires to negotiate the "discolonization" of the islands. Great Britain, which can only invoke the obsolete right of conquest, claims, however, that the alleged rights of the "Kelpers" or islanders, are predominant. However, this is against the letter and spirit of the United Nations resolution of 1966, as Britain invokes not the "interests" of those settlers but their "wishes". But the resolution refers to "interests".

Has in fact not even Britain recognized that with the logistic and economic support of Argentina the "Kelpers" would be able to support themselves?

The solution to all this is easy to find in the framework of Argentine sovereignty and the defence of the individual, cultural and economic rights of those 300 British families. There are 17,000 British nationals, plus about 100,000 of their descendants, living in Argentina. They are, in a sense, the people best fitted to bear witness that this country is far more than just a transitory military government.

Not should unfortunate historical circumstances hide the fact that this country is one of Latin America's most outstanding manifestations of the "best European traditions and culture, including the British way of life."

We appeal to the practical and realistic sense and international responsibility of the British people and their leaders, and their profound comprehension of world events, for them to halt a war which we consider to be not only absurd but also unfair.

**Jesus Iglesias Rouco**  
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# Hanging: the case for letting a jury decide

Next month MPs will have a free vote on whether to reintroduce capital punishment. Nicholas Fairbairn argues in favour of hanging as a general deterrent to crime

Capital punishment is once again a political issue. And the call is that there should be mandatory capital punishment for certain categories of murder; or, to put it another way, for certain categories of assault which happen to result in the death of a victim. It is a question of a prison officer or a policeman. If capital punishment is to be available, why should it only be available as a punishment for murder whether of all or any kind?

After all, if it is to be a deterrent, it is a deterrent which depends on the result of an assault rather than its intention or recklessness. It is worth therefore looking at the history of the supreme punishment in this country where there have of course always been two parallel systems of law, the law of Scotland and the law of England.

In both countries both before and for a century and a half after their union as one kingdom, a very large number of crimes attracted the possibility though not the inevitability of the death penalty. This was in great part because there was no police force, so punishment was the only deterrent. As the police force developed, the number of crimes for which the death penalty could be imposed and the number of occasions upon which it was imposed was reduced, until eventually the list dwindled to arson, in the Royal Dockyards, treason (for each of which it still applies) and murder.

Since the wooden ship was replaced by the metal ship and the succession to the throne ceased to be a matter of doubt or dispute, in the nineteenth century the only crime effectively left as punishable by death was murder. Quite wrongly but understandably it came to be assumed that this was the application of the *lex talionis*, the old Jewish law of an eye for an eye and a life for a life.

In fact the last three crimes for which the death penalty was retained were crimes against the State, although it was imposed only for crimes against the subjects of the State. Accord-



ingly, the death penalty eked out its last century not as a deterrent but as a retribution. Until its abolition it was imposed in practice for murder only — a crime which until the time of the abolition of the death penalty was almost always committed by non-criminals for a reason upon victims whom they knew. Murder was a crime of passion, envy, emotion, weakness or gain.

Until the abolition of the death penalty we hanged frustrated or impassioned lovers, would-be inheritors, unhappy spouses and almost any ordinary criminals. But the effect of the existence of the death penalty was huge on everybody except those few romantic squints who were its victims. The conundrum of the death penalty was that it had little effect if

any in deterring those who actually committed murder, like Ruth Ellis, Doctor Ruthon, Heath or High, none of whom were ordinary criminals, but it had an immense effect on the ordinary criminal who did not commit murder and paused before committing assault.

When the death penalty existed, the law had been in the most junior court in the land the juvenile dropped in before the justice of the peace for, while he could not be hanged, for the petty offence with which he was charged, he knew he was in the chamber of life and death. And criminals did not, except very occasionally, either take life or commit assaults which might result in death. The abolition of the death penalty removed that immense deterrent.

I started practice in 1957 in Scotland. There were then fewer indicted cases in all of the ten high courts in Scotland per year than there are now in one of them per month.

The geometric progression started with the abolition of the death penalty. Of course it was accelerated by the permissive society, of which Roy Jenkins was the proud progenitor, and by consequential guilt legislation and various flights from the security of discipline and the ethic of right and wrong.

Television and other matters have no doubt helped on the generation and incubation of current criminality. But that the death penalty acted as a general deterrent to the commission of crime I have no doubt; if it is to return, its justification is that it is

deterrent to criminals of all kinds in the commission of crimes of all kinds and not that it is retribution for taking the life of one category of citizen or another.

The strange fact of the death penalty is that it deters crimes in general rather than the crimes for which it was later mandated, so why should we not concentrate on that characteristic — in considering its reintroduction? For the fact is that murder, though appalling, is a senseless and a senseless act. It is now usually the unintended result of random assault by criminals, whereas when the death penalty existed it was almost always the intended result of intended assault by non-criminals.

There can be no question but that the majority of people in this country want the death penalty in some form to be available. It is the people who demand the death penalty, and it is the people who form our juries. In my opinion, the death penalty should be available for any crime of indictment in the High Court, and the Crown should be permitted to mark any indictment capital and leave it to the jury to bring a verdict of capital or non-capital rape, murder, attempted murder, arson, terrorism or burglary.

In this way I believe the death penalty would have the maximum deterrent effect without the minimum number of executions, if any. No criminal might be hanged but he would never know. I trust juries and I do not believe that they would ever bring in a verdict of a capital crime unless the evidence was irrefutable and the circumstances abominable.

Now it may be said that punishment is a matter for the court and not the jury. Yes, in theory, but practically the most cases of the death penalty, that is, manifestly not so, particularly after the Homicide Act. The juries could always avoid or impose the death penalty by bringing in a verdict of manslaughter or murder or accepting a defence of diminished responsibility or finding that the murder was or was not in pursuance of theft.

For those who say that the death penalty for anything less than murder would be wrong, let us look at the case of manslaughter. Michael Greaves, when he turned suddenly in the car for that, Hauray was hanged. But after Greaves's death he raped Valerie Storie at gun point and emptied his gun into his body in order to

eradicate her evidence, leaving her a living paraplegic.

He could not have been hanged for that, but I believe that the crime for which he did hang was infinitely less frightful than the crime for which he could not be hanged and I am certain that a jury would have taken the same view. Why should a man who throws a hand grenade into a crowded public place if he merely created fifty blind quadriplegics while the man who throws a stone through a sitting room window dies if he causes a death? The criterion for which the death penalty should be available is not whether the lives of or dies but whether the conduct was such as to demonstrate a disposition depraved enough to be regardless of the consequences to the victim, be it rape, mugging or assault of any kind the jury hold that to be so, and are so certain of the evidence that they are willing to recommend an irreversible penalty.

I have appeared for the defence in capital murder trials, and in innumerable trials for non-capital murder and other indictable offences, both for the defence and latterly for the prosecution. In particular I appeared for Patrick McLean, who was wrongly convicted of murder and sentenced to hang, and for John Preece who was wrongly convicted of murder and released after eight years imprisonment.

Under the old law both would have been wrongly hanged. Why then, of all people, can I propose or contemplate the return of the supreme penalty? The answer is simple. If the supreme penalty were available and not mandatory, and available for any indictable crime of assault whether it ended in death or not, I am certain that the jury would choose, where necessary, to impose the death penalty by bringing in a verdict of manslaughter or murder or accepting a defence of diminished responsibility or finding that the murder was or was not in pursuance of theft.

I am certain that only in cases where the evidence was overwhelming and irrefutable and the crime was frightful in concept and execution, would a jury bring in a verdict of capital crime.

But it would be a risk so universal that serious crime would not be under-taking.

The author is Conservative MP for Kinross and West Perthshire and was Solicitor General for Scotland from 1979 to 1982.

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# More religious than we think

The average Englishman thinks he is more religious than the average Englishman. This conundrum throws a ray of light on the state of the nation's soul. The perception of reality and reality itself are two different things. The English are far more religious than they themselves realize.

Last autumn virtually identical polls were conducted in nine European countries, to discover what values and beliefs Europeans hold in common, and how they vary. Asked "How important is God in your life?" the British answered more positively than the French, the West Germans, the Dutch, and the Danes. Asked to endorse the First Commandment ("Thou shalt have no other Gods before me"), the British scored worse only than the Irish and the Italians. Six out of 10 of the sample from Great Britain said yes to the question: "Would you say you are a religious person?"

This surprising image of the British as a predominantly religious nation is in contrast to the nation's

received view of itself as secular. Indeed, the same poll showed this clearly. For 48 per cent of the British think that the religious faith of the nation is in decline, but only 18 per cent in the lives of other people. Both figures cannot be true if, as Gallup insists, the sample was representative.

These results are particularly relevant to the Pope visit to Britain at the end of May, as another more recent poll demonstrates. For there is an almost perfect correlation between how religious a person is (or judges himself to be) and how keenly he awaits the Pope. The keenest of all are the regular churchgoers, virtually irrespective of the denomination they subscribe to, but the same rule operates among non-churchgoers.

There is a substantial proportion of the population which does not go often to church, but thinks of itself as religious. And if this interpretation of the statistics is right, it indicates that the Pope can reasonably expect a very large and receptive British audience

when he comes. But the British themselves have hardly yet begun to realize it.

The face-to-face encounter between this large religiously-minded non-church-going sector of the population and the world's leading exponent of what might be called Total Religion, the Pope himself, will be full of conundrums. The two sides of the encounter represent very different ways of being religious, and there can be no guarantees in advance that they will understand each other. The Gallup investigation into the fundamental values of European culture took statistical inquiry into areas it had not visited before, but left many questions unanswered. It seems to be the case, for example, that the six out of 10 of the population who say they are religious would want also to say that they are Christian.

Indeed, "religious" being a "boo" word and "Christian" still a "hurray" word, the total self-described "Christians" may well be considerably higher. But does this laid-back style of faith include belief in such propo-

sitions as the Trinity, the divinity of Christ, or the Bible as the Word of God? Probably not "doctrine" and "dogma" are not English words of approval, and the tendency in the religious sector is to leave itself undefined. "Theology" is also not a word of praise that springs naturally to English lips.

There is a fair quantity of ignorance and mistaken understanding of even the simple basics. There was a lady reporter at a press conference given by an American woman priest from America some years ago, who asked this correspondent for a whispered explanation of the term "Holy Communion" which had come up in the context.

The largest gap between the Pope's understanding of religion and that generally held by the British, however, is about the importance of "the church" in religious life. The Roman position is straightforward, namely that Jesus Christ founded an institution which was to continue both his work and his presence on earth, and that institution, more or less,

is today the church the Pope heads.

The non-Roman Catholic British, "once a year" church-goers, who make up the largest identifiable religious group in the country, have no such vision of the church's origin and mission. The most likely reply, asked who founded the Church of England, would probably be "Henry VIII." And no phrase is more characteristic of British religion than the saying "You can worship God wherever you like," meaning that churches and clergymen are all very well for weddings and funerals, but the man in the street does not have much time to spare for them.

A survey once asked the public to arrange various professions in order of esteem. The list would have been headed by "police" (Journalists came bottom, along with publicists.) But another poll asked the public whether they would take a personal problem to a clergyman, for advice. Even among regular churchgoers the figure was minute.

This ambivalence towards

the clergy is paralleled by an equal ambivalence towards the church. It is a common grumble among churchmen that many of those who would like to see the church "near the place" are the first to mount public protests when church buildings are selected for demolition.

But such a clamour is also a true expression of the "churchless Christianity" of the majority of the British people. The expression "of E" stands almost for a separate denomination from the Church of England, so little has it to do with that church's daily life. It is not the anti-clericalism born of bitter ideological hostility that one finds on the Continent. But anti-clericalism in this way before, and it is still the anti-clericalism of refusing to take the church and its ministry very seriously.

So will it take the Pope very seriously? It has never been confronted by Total Religion in this way before, and it is still no precedent whatever on which to base a judgment.

**Clifford Longley**  
Religious Affairs Correspondent

# Somewhere in Mayfair, a whiff of Soyer stew

Since we seem to be at war it is reassuring to know there are people around who can cope in emergencies. Yesterday formidably resourceful members of the Women's Royal Volunteer Service went through their paces for the benefit of the press.

In a mock-up of an improvised rest centre hastily set up in their Old Park Lane headquarters, almost a score of green-clad volunteers regaled visiting journalists with the tricks of their caring trade: paper clips, a box of Price's white wax candles; string; pencils; armbands and assorted notices.

Responding to the unexpected emergency of the water supply drying up, they produced lashings of scalding vegetable soup and mugs of sweet tea with a gas cylinder and a field boiler.

We were registered, shown where to obtain our emergency clothing and escorted on to a windswept balcony to inspect "the Soyer". This is a ruggedly sturdy stove with a smokestack chimney that can cook up to 160 stew-type meals in the middle of nowhere on a fuel of anything from broken chairs to cardboard boxes. Originally designed at the time of the Crimean war, it is still going strong.

"That," said the guide, pointing to an ash-faded figure under a grey blanket, "is our Mr Dobson." Dobson, one of the 9,000 male workers with the WRVS, had volunteered to play a

casualty for the Red Cross lady present. He remained resolutely inert for the duration of the visit. Given the relentless competence of his female company, PHS could sympathize.

# Rare visitors

Sizewell in Suffolk, home of a large nuclear power station, is a full of twitchers, the local name for birdwatchers. The ornithologists have been turning up in large numbers to gaze at a local cow pasture, currently inhabited by an as yet unidentified small bird.

Derek Moore, Suffolk's official bird recorder, believes the bird could be either a pine bunting or a rock bunting. Both are extremely rare visitors to Britain. Sizewell had a more substantial attraction for twitchers only recently, when a white tailed eagle made the village its temporary home.

# Toilet roll call

Previews start tonight at the Half Moon Theatre for a comedy set in and around the lavatories of London. Written, obviously, to make people laugh like a drain, it has in fact succeeded in putting off an uncommonly large and distinguished number of agents who were at one time keen to make a go of it, but eventually decided it would not be conventional.

Nigel Williams, who received the Most Promising Playwright Award for *Class Enemy*, wrote his toilet tissue of satire and farce, W.C.P.C., five years ago. In its original form it was to have

# THE TIMES DIARY

American business executives are rushing to pick up tips from a Japanese writer who killed his first enemy at 13. The book, *Warrior*, by Miyamoto Musashi, a Book of Five Rings. It was translated by Victor Harris, a British Museum expert, and first published in English in 1974, primarily for martial arts

enthusiasts. It has become a cult in America with more than 100,000 hardback copies sold, since the word spread that this was the book Japanese businessmen use as their guide to business practice.

Time magazine says: "On Wall Street when Musashi talks people listen". Indeed with tactics typical of the newly fashionable ferocity, Overlook Press who published the Harris translation in America, are suing Bantam Books for \$1m for attempting to produce a rival version. Allison and Busby publish the first paperback edition here on Thursday. So watch out.

been put on at the Royal Court, then it was considered by the National Theatre, Michael White and H. M. Tennant. There were firm plans for the Nottingham Playhouse until the board got a look in, and the playwright decided he did not want a run as far away as Liverpool.

Williams says the directors who have been interested in the play read like a roll call of the British theatre, including Nicholas Wright, John Dexter and Ronald Eyre. "It was a big job getting the second act right," he admits. "Even quite a few theatre critics have had a hard time of it." The plot concerns an ingenious young policeman assigned to the vice squad, and requires toilets on stage though Williams says: "I do not think the Half Moon can actually afford to put pans in the

cubicles." The attraction of the play, Williams thinks, is "that lavatories are hysterically funny, unless you are terribly, terribly grown up."

# Book blockade

Jeffrey Archer, the former Conservative MP and best-selling author, and Deborah Owen, literary agent and wife of the former foreign secretary, Dr David Owen, have declared their own blockade of Argentina.

Deborah Owen was negotiating Spanish-South American rights to Archer's new book *The Prodigal Daughter* when the Falklands crisis began. The prospective publishers were the large Argentine house, Emicé. "I immediately put the whole thing on hold and sought instruc-

tions from my author," she says. "Jeffrey very firmly told me he did not want to negotiate to continue. The book is one that would have appealed strongly to Argentinians."

# Would-be MPs

William Rodgers treated some half-dozen pressmen to a tour of the SDP's Cowley Street headquarters yesterday, in the course of which he confided that one difficulty was that the party has more would-be candidates than it knows what to do with. As the group prepared to return to Parliament with souvenir mugs, it emerged that one of them was not a journalist at all. He was a prospective candidate awaiting interview who had tagged along in the hope of finding where he should go.

# Lifelong winters

Women in Iceland have an average lifespan of 79.3 years, the longest in the world, according to researchers who have spent 17 years of the allotted time studying the life expectancy of others. Norwegian women do almost as well, with an average of 79 years.

Scandinavia also leads in life expectancy for men. It may have something to do with the long winters. The leaders for men are Iceland, Sweden, Japan and Norway, where men live 6.6 years less than women. The researchers found no proof that hardy determines how long one lives. "The aged among us," they are reported as



concluding, "are those who have shown moderation, are tranquil, and have an interest in people and the future."

# Looking back

The Lewis Carroll Society hopes to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson by laying a memorial stone in Westminster Abbey later this year. The Dean and Chapter have agreed that the Victorian should be honoured and an appeal, supported by, among others, Sir John Betjeman and Ralph Steadman, has been launched to raise £3,000 to meet the costs.

After the works of Shakespeare, *Through the Looking-Glass* are the most translated works of fiction in the English language. There are versions in 60 different languages, including Esperanto, shorthand, aborigines and Japanese.

Lindsay Fulcher, the society's chairman, says: "Lewis Carroll's 'gimmicks' and wordplays translate as a mystery."

# Out of habitat

Sir Christopher Lever is a conservationist who specializes in the study of species translated to strange environments. He is beginning to think he could make a case study of himself, so conservationists are the misdirected invitations which bid him attend official functions where he would be out of place.

They are really intended for Sir Christopher Lever, managing director of Russell & McVey, who is this year's Lord Mayor of London.

Lever says he is always keen to accept, but his wife makes him send the invitations back. Thus he is encouraged to press on with his books about mammals and birds which have settled down successfully in unfamiliar surroundings, without exposing himself to the rigours of a civil dignitary's social life.

I got one of the answers to my own quiz wrong yesterday. It was not sales of Scotch whisky that fell by a third last year, but the production.

PHS





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## THE ISSUE IS THE LAW

The focus of the crisis is now sharpening. It is nearly four weeks since the Security Council demanded the immediate withdrawal of Argentine forces which had invaded the Falkland Islands. Far from complying with that resolution Argentina has been reinforcing its garrison, indicating not even an attitude of "benign neglect" to the United Nations, but one of open defiance. On the other side, the Task Force, in South Georgia, and in the maritime exclusion zone which it has created round the Falklands, has shown that where it has the capacity to effect an Argentine withdrawal or at least a limitation of its presence, it does so.

Mrs Thatcher was not in an expansive mood in the Commons yesterday about where we go from here. She was naturally reluctant to have the interstices of every negotiating position held up for the agonised inspection of honourable members. Britain's purpose is to seek Argentina's compliance with resolution 502, but that is not the only purpose. Under article 51 of the Charter the British Government has the right to defend its sovereignty and administration of the Islands; and it has a duty to do so on behalf of its citizens, as much as under the more general requirement to uphold international law.

However, though Mrs Thatcher was not that explicit, certain things become clearer. The first is that Argentina's defiance of the United Nations, and its behaviour in negotiation with Mr Haig, show that no negotiation with it can or should be contemplated without the continuous and cumulative backing of force of all kinds — economic and military. However, economic sanctions, welcome though they are, are slow moving. The military options must therefore be ever present and ever pressed. The task force is under the closest political control. It does not have a momentum of its own except in the sense that the oncoming winter in the southern Atlantic will inhibit the full exercise of its capabilities. So it is important,

as a background to a continuing search for a solution through negotiation, for the Task Force to show that it can put the Argentine presence on the Falklands in total quarantine, both with regard to air and sea. Air supply must be prevented. There are a number of ways to achieve that, all of which would be consistent with the doctrine of minimum force so triumphantly demonstrated in the operation on South Georgia. Minimum force must be the governing operational doctrine, as it always has been. But the quarantine must be achieved.

The second aspect concerns Britain's negotiating position. We must remember that the root of this crisis springs from Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the Falklands. It is clear therefore that, in the Argentine mind, there will be no satisfactory solution to the crisis which does not recognise the validity of that claim — even though it has only now been established by force because Argentina decided it was not getting anywhere through the usual process of resolving jurisdictional questions under international law. The question is: Why was Argentina not getting anywhere in that process? Because Argentina refused on previous occasions to submit to the jurisdiction of the International Court at The Hague, where such matters are argued.

In 1955 Britain sought to take Argentina and Chile to the Court over infringement of its jurisdiction in the Falklands Dependencies. The attempt failed because Argentina and Chile declined to accept the jurisdiction of The Hague. Had there been any vestige of evidence that Argentina has accepted that jurisdiction in some other issue, there would now be sufficient grounds to cover a British application in this case. However even that procedure would not be entirely satisfactory. There have been five recent cases involving the non-appearance of a defendant government. It puts the Court in difficulties; its authority is diminished; and the quality of its proceedings is poor.

ings prejudiced by its seeming to take some account of the "noises off" from the recalcitrant party.

It therefore appears that Argentina is guilty of a double intransigence — both in flouting the law through aggression and in refusing to use agreed legal procedures for resolving just such an issue. It is attempting to exercise a veto over the means by which the issue of the sovereignty of the Falklands is settled. That would be intolerable in peaceful circumstances. It is doubly so when the veto is rudely asserted by armed aggression.

Whatever temporary arrangements can be made to secure the withdrawal of troops, the question of sovereignty should only be considered "negotiable" in the context of an agreed reference to the International Court at The Hague. To agree to anything less than that would be to reward an aggression. The consequences of such a "reward" in Latin America itself — let alone the rest of the world — would be incalculable since many Latin American frontiers are of recent origin and have only been defined by force, without any more substantive authority. The frontier between Mexico and the United States, for instance, dates from 1848 when the United States took the Pacific South West by force from Mexico as it gained its independence. It has virtually lost control of that frontier now, under the pressure of mass illegal Mexican immigration, and the frontier is frequently the subject of Mexican irredentist claims.

It is inconceivable that the United States would entertain any Mexican claim on its Pacific South-West, though in fact such a claim has a much better basis than the Argentine claim on the Falklands. Yet that is the prospect which would be opened up by the sovereignty of the Falklands being decided, or fudged, in some smoke-filled room at the State Department, as a result simply of the Argentine aggression. That is the principle which is still at stake; and it will not, it cannot, go away.

## PUTTING HEALTH SECOND

Ever since the local authority manual workers secured pay rises of 7.8 per cent in December, it has been clear that it would be a difficult negotiating round in the public sector. The tension now building up in the NHS follows directly from that ill-considered capitulation by the Labour majority on the local authority associations. Today Mr Norman Fowler is meeting representatives of NHS employees, Cohse is already mounting selective stoppages, and other unions are considering how to follow suit next month.

The unions are asking for 12 per cent, while the Government is allocating funds to the service on the assumption that pay for most of its workers will rise by no more than four per cent, with five per cent for the ambulance men and 6.8 per cent for the nurses. Even for the latter, the offer falls well short of inflation, which has been 12 per cent over the past year, though it has now dropped to ten per cent. The nurses, who saw part of last year's rise cancelled out by changes in their hours of work, can call upon much public sympathy in any dispute. In some areas like geriatric and mental hospitals, there are some signs of difficulties in recruitment. But wages account for 70 per cent of all NHS costs. The control of public spending is so central to the Government's strategy that it cannot make more than minor concessions on the claim, presented for the first time

on a concerted basis by the major health service unions, without jeopardising all that it seeks to achieve.

Last month's attempt to detach the nurses from the common front by raising their offer seems not to have been fully successful. The Royal College of Nursing never goes on strike, as a matter of policy. Many other individual nurses feel too much sense of responsibility to patients in their charge to threaten their welfare. But some other workers in the service, working less closely in contact with patients, have shown in recent years that they feel very little inhibited by this factor. In 1979, the worst year for industrial conflict in the history of the NHS, almost half its employees were involved in stoppages, more than half a million working days were lost, and patients suffered much avoidable distress. Partly as a result of the political conflicts over pay beds earlier in the 1970s, and partly as a result of wider changes in public attitudes, the instinct to regard the patient's interests as paramount has been weakened. It is possible to overstate the change. In most recent years, the number of days lost per 1,000 employees in the NHS has usually been less than a tenth of the corresponding figure for Britain as a whole. But in the sixties it was often a hundredth or less.

For the time being, the action taken in support of this

year's pay claim has been restricted — two-hour stoppages, bans on non-emergency admissions, bans on private patients, and so on (the last, of course, helping to steer funds from the NHS to the private hospitals). A policy of all-out industrial action would alienate public sympathy very quickly. But even limited action designed to disturb the smooth running of the health service is all too likely to do harm to patients. It is seldom possible to point to individual instances, because the course of an illness is never fully predictable, but in practice it is so. Apart from the bewilderment and fear that almost inevitably result, full investigation and treatment of patients who are more seriously ill than they seem will be delayed. The distinction between emergency and non-emergency admissions is only a preliminary and approximate one. Waiting lists will grow, and the backlog may still be being worked off many months after the dispute has been settled (after the 1979 outbreak, national waiting lists grew 70,000 longer, and did not come down to their earlier levels for more than a year). The NHS will be given another shove towards the status of a second-class service by the very people who most vocally object to that possibility. It is simply not possible to mount a strong campaign of industrial action in the NHS without doing lasting damage both to its ideals and its customers.

What must be avoided is a situation in which sub-fertile couples who might benefit by the advances of science are prevented from doing so by an arbitrary ban on the use of medical treatment because of fears about the possible consequences of one small development or possible use of a technique in those areas.

Members of our association are not against controls over the matter of AID they would positively welcome certain kinds of controls. What they are afraid of is that such controls will be exercised without due consideration for what they see as their biological urge to have children.

Yours faithfully,

PETER HOUGHTON, Founder, JEREMY WARD, National Organiser, Birmingham Settlement, 318 Summer Lane, Birmingham, April 26.

## Question of women in the ministry

From the Warden of Latimer House

Sir, Your provocative third leader on "Women in the Church" (April 22) cannot pass without comment.

It is indeed true that "the ordination of women is right in principle and is bound to come", then your logic might be impeccable. It is, of course, the conventional wisdom of contemporary feminism that the ordination of women is right in principle. However, the Christian position is that God created men and women as complementary but different. Inasmuch as they need each other, they are equal, but inasmuch as they are different, they should not try to fulfil all the same roles.

Women themselves are now, in many parts of the world, rebelling against the conventional wisdom on the subject and insisting that they be allowed to be women and not fake men. There is reason to think that this movement will become more and more widespread, since it is founded in the realities of human nature as well as in those of divine revelation.

The relations between Anglican churches which ordain women priests and those which do not are bound to cause certain tensions, but the bishops of the Anglican churches agreed at the 1978 Lambeth Conference to respect each others' discipline in this matter, and it is this sensible agreement which the Capetian bishop is now complaining about.

Nevertheless, the agreement will have to continue for, along with the three Anglican churches that now have women priests, at least 11 have decided (at any rate for the present) not to.

If any of these 11 were to change their canons so as to allow women priests from abroad to minister in their midst they would be unable to resist pressure to start ordaining women priests for themselves. It is for this reason that the first two in the process must be firmly resisted.

Yours faithfully,  
R. T. BECKWITH, Warden, Latimer House, 131 Banbury Road, Oxford, April 22.

## Aid for the childless

From Mr Peter Houghton and Dr Jeremy Ward

Sir, On behalf of the National Association for the Childless we welcome your sensible and timely leader (April 19) on the issues surrounding man's control of his own reproductive processes: AID and extracorporeal fertilisation techniques.

As representatives of an association of sub-fertile people we have already written to the Secretary of State suggesting that a royal commission should be set up to examine this whole area. We feel that it is essential, not only for a whole, but also for the individual, that the debate on these issues should be as public as possible.

What must be avoided is a situation in which sub-fertile couples who might benefit by the advances of science are prevented from doing so by an arbitrary ban on the use of medical treatment because of fears about the possible consequences of one small development or possible use of a technique in those areas.

Members of our association are not against controls over the matter of AID they would positively welcome certain kinds of controls. What they are afraid of is that such controls will be exercised without due consideration for what they see as their biological urge to have children.

Yours faithfully,

PETER HOUGHTON, Founder, JEREMY WARD, National Organiser, Birmingham Settlement, 318 Summer Lane, Birmingham, April 26.

## Surgeon's hungry allies

From Professor B. W. Payton

Sir, Although I can appreciate how other agents have displaced me from the current uses of leeches in medicine from the front page (March 17), in times such as the present, when the mother country would get it, I need all the support I can get. I was surprised to see in the West of Wales press an AAP report which suggests "The British leech is nowhere in the running — or in the sucking — in modern medical applications." As a recently hatched Canadian I would like to reassure my previously fellow countrymen that the situation is not as bad as reported.

The present situation in Britain is that *Hirudo medicinalis* is extremely uncommon, but I can assure you that it still exists. Last year Dr Roy Sawyer, of Pen-clawd, Glamorgan, a world expert on the biology of leeches, informed me that much to his delight he had been bitten by one (in the Principality) and showed me a photograph of the bite mark to prove it. He also reported that he knows of a pond in the Home Counties where this species may still be found, but, fearing no doubt for their safety, he declined to be more specific as to their location.

Yours faithfully,  
B. W. PAYTON, Medical Audio-Visual Services, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St John's, Newfoundland, Canada, April 17.

## Chronic disorders

From Miss Charlotte Hofton

Sir, Has Mr Seigel (April 21) ever tried to unwrap a piece of sticking plaster with the fingers that have just been lacerated while endeavouring to open a tin of sardines?

Yours faithfully,

CHARLOTTE HOFTON, 107 Albert Palace Mansions, Lurline Gardens, W11, April 21.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Judgment needed on Falklands issue

From Lord Mishcon

Sir, Many will have read with considerable interest, as I did, Sir Derek Walker-Smith's letter (April 24) on the Falkland Islands issue being a case for the International Court at The Hague.

That our forces have actually engaged the Argentines and their Foreign Minister has said that "negotiations" are at least temporarily in abeyance, one would have thought that it becomes even more necessary for a clear unequivocal statement to be made by HM Government that subject to prior withdrawal of the Argentine troops in compliance with UN Resolution 502 we are prepared for our part to have the issue of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands submitted to the International Court for adjudication.

Indeed, I ventured to put the suggestion in precisely that form to the Minister of State, Lord Belstead, in the Lords on April 19 (Hansard, column 399) after he had surprised many of us by saying that our Government had never previously put this suggestion to the Argentine Government, and the minister replied: "I certainly take on board what the noble Lord has said but... the first priority for HM Government is the implementation of Security Council Resolution 502". It is not readiness to submit the dispute to the arbitration of The Hague compliance with that resolution, and have we not everything to gain with the confidence we have in our case and nothing to lose by making that public pronouncement now?

Many had thought, both in Parliament and outside (and were encouraged in the belief by an

## Kabul detention of British scholar

From the President of the British Academy

Sir, On March 28, as reported in your columns (April 6), Mr Ralph Pinder-Wilson, the Director of the British Institute for Afghan Studies in Kabul, was detained by the security authorities in Afghanistan. No formal charges have been brought; there has been no clear indication of the grounds on which he is being held and, in spite of repeated requests, full consular access has not been granted.

The British Institute, which is governed by the Society for Afghan Studies, is one of nine overseas research institutes sponsored by the British Academy. Between 1974 and 1979 it undertook regular archaeological excavations at Kandahar under agreement with the Afghan Government. During the past two years its main aim has been to make arrangements to safeguard the study of the Kandahar excavated finds.

Mr Pinder-Wilson had arranged for the material to be transported to the British Institute's premises in Kabul and was discussing with the Ministry of Information and Culture arrangements for entry visas so that British scholars working on the publication could complete the study of the extensive pottery finds now in Kabul. He was on his way to an appointment at the ministry when he was detained.

It is a matter of great concern that, despite repeated requests by the British Consul in Kabul and the strenuous efforts of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr Pinder-Wilson has not been released. He is a man approaching retirement and his health gives some cause for worry. There is great confidence in his personal integrity and in the normal business of an archaeological mission overseas.

The British Academy is seeking to enlist the support and good offices of the international scholarly community, in France, India, Italy, Japan and the Soviet Union (all countries with important archaeological missions to Afghanistan) to help secure Mr Pinder-Wilson's release.

Yours faithfully,  
OWEN CHADWICK, The British Academy, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1, April 23.

## Justice Bill

From Dr J. Leahy Taylor

Sir, Mr Morris (April 15) has mentioned but one matter which the Administration of Justice Bill failed to deal with.

A further matter is the third recommendation of the Pearson report, which said that it should be provided that private medical expenses should be recoverable in damages if and only if it was reasonable on medical grounds that the plaintiff should incur them.

This simple measure, which would require repeal of section 2 (of the Law Reform (Personal Injuries) Act 1948, and section 3 (4) of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1948, would prevent the injustice of a plaintiff claiming future medical expenses on a private basis, and then seeking payment through the National Health Service.

Yours faithfully,

J. LEAHY TAYLOR, Secretary, The Medical Protection Society Limited, 50 Hallam Street, W1, April 15.

## Capital punishment

From the Reverend M. W. Thomas

Sir, Surely the BBC series, *Rough Justice*, and your articles on Paul Cleland (April 22) finally lay to rest any argument there may be in favour of the return of capital punishment.

The thought that someone may spend years in prison unjustly is horrible enough, but at least there remains the possibility of setting him free if the original sentence is reversed.

Yours faithfully,  
MARK THOMAS, 51 Chyngton Gardens, Seaford, East Sussex, April 22.

## Flights of inspiration

From Mr Michael Sanderson

Sir, Does splendid news of Mr Vladimir Horowitz's first concert in Europe for three decades, having "overcome his legendary dislike" because he was intrigued by Concorde (report, April 16) mean that the aircraft will no longer be thought of as a monstrously expensive white elephant but as an arts subsidy?

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL SANDERSON, Westnorth College, Heslington, Yorkshire.

## Wrong priorities

From Mr J. A. Dowling Green

Sir, Miles Kingston has his priorities wrong (April 20). Morris dancers are Morris dancers. It is when they are off duty from dancing that they take up such interests as stockbroking, teaching, driving Underground trains, or labouring. Not, I assure you, the other way around.

Yours faithfully,

J. A. DOWLING GREEN, 115 Lansdowne Road, Tottenham, N17.

## Christians and war

From the Right Rev J. P. Burroughs

Sir, In his letter to *The Times* on April 21, the Reverend Gordon Wilson makes a clear and simple statement about us bishops.

As a member of the Lambeth conferences of 1968 and 1978, I fully accept his criticism of any of us who do not stand by our declaration there made that war as a method of settling international disputes is incompatible with the teaching and example of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The world's bloodstained acts of violence these past few decades have certainly not commended war as a means of gain to anyone. All have been losers. It is divided and still has only a trace and not a peace. My diocese in the then Rhodesia underwent seven years of warfare which was horrible beyond belief, and no plea of political necessity on one side nor a mythical "liberation" on the other can atone for the suffering caused, nor absolve those who tried to make it morally acceptable. Lambeth was right, and we bishops should repeat its declaration.

Yours faithfully,  
J. PAUL BURROUGHS, The Rectory, 5 Nook Lane, Eppingham, Leicestershire.

## From Mr S. E. MacKenzie

Sir, "But this know ye, that if the Goodman of the house knew at what hour the thief would come, he would certainly watch and would not suffer his house to be broken open." (From Matthew's Gospel, chapter 24, Douay version).

Wherefore the reply to the Chairman of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship (April 21) must be, with respect, that Christians are not necessarily pacifists. On the contrary, the many who are in the office of supreme pastor instituted by Christ at John 21:15 ff to have been perpetuated in the office of Pope mark well Pope John Paul's two recent reaffirmations of, among other things, the right of legitimate defence.

I refer, first, to the new encyclical of September last, on Human Work, wherein this right is maintained — indeed is seen as "supported... by the permanent threat of nuclear war and the prospect of the terrible self-destruction that emerges from it"; because "Respect for this broad range of human rights

## Freedom to roam

From Mr Cyril Birks

Sir, Richard North's article, "The long march of the footpath revolutionaries" (April 21), fails to record, inadvertently I suspect, that there was one particular MP who fought hard in the late twenties and early thirties to secure the successful passage of the "Access to Mountains" Bill, but alas in vain. He was P. M. Oliver who, if I remember, was the Liberal MP for Blackley, Manchester.

For successive years he addressed a mass rally of ramblers in the natural arena of Winnats Pass in the heart of Derbyshire in support of the Bill.

At that time, as a member of the forerunner of the present Ramblers' Association, I and other fellow ramblers, who had an intimate knowledge of the Derbyshire hills and dales, organized parties of young men and women, all unemployed and from the poverty-stricken areas of Oldham, Rochdale, Middleton, Dukinfield and other hard-hit industrial sectors within the Manchester region, and led them along the bridle paths, introducing them to country folklores (e.g. closing gates, much appreciated by the farmers) and at the same time giving these youngsters the opportunity of escaping once a week from their drab surroundings.

Money for the train journey to Chinley and other starting points

constitutes the fundamental condition for peace in the modern world." (16). And second, I refer to the Pope's World Peace Message of January 1, 1982, capped at (12) with its endorsement of the similar teaching of Vatican II (*Gaudium et Spes*, 79).

None of which denies the difficulty inherent in seeking true justice and peace, as in the present crisis of aggression in the Falklands, while many another "goodman of the house" waits to see whether the Falklanders are to be pressured into accepting a fait accompli. Your correspondent would not, I think, wish to have his projected Iona-like abbey commemorate so base an outcome. Nor, I venture, would Matthew 24:43.

Yours etc,  
S. E. MACKENZIE, Trefusis, Cavendish Road, Weybridge, Surrey.

## From Mr J. G. W. Bruce-Jones

Sir, Of the many points in the leading article, "Keep ambiguity in deterrence", of April 16, that deserve to be questioned I wish to focus on one that is, I believe, particularly insidious and misleading.

We read: "It would be dangerous... to spread the impression that conventional war is somehow acceptable where nuclear war is not." The point is, surely, that whilst all war is ultimately unacceptable, in the real world there are degrees of acceptability.

The crucial difference between conventional war and nuclear war is that the first involves in direct confrontation professional military forces, while by its very essence nuclear war kills directly millions of civilians. Even conservative Home Office estimates assume that 25 million people would die in a nuclear attack on the UK.

In conventional war the decision to kill civilians directly must take into account the consequences of the political odium incurred, as well as problems of military logistics and the availability of destructive technology; there is always a choice.

In nuclear war these problems have been overcome; there is no choice. Nuclear weapons are, first and always, weapons of mass destruction.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BRUCE-JONES, Jesus College, Cambridge, April 18.

## was often provided out of our own pockets or subscribed by personal friends who, though not interested in such recreation, were sympathetic to the idea of helping these young people to enjoy the beauty and the fresh air of our valuable heritage, the countryside.

Yours faithfully,  
CYRIL BIRKS, 29 Gloucester House, Courtlands, Richmond upon Thames, Surrey, April 21.

## Shere Thursday

From the Reverend W. B. Vernon

Sir, In the parish records of Winterslow, near Salisbury, there is a churchwardens' account book of the seventeenth or eighteenth century which records an item of expenditure for Shere Thursday (letter, April 19).

The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church (Cross) suggests that "shere" may refer either to the practice of receiving absolution or to the ceremonial cleaning of the altars of the church on that day. I seem to remember that the churchwardens' item indicated the latter alternative.

Yours faithfully,  
W. B. VERNON, Winterslow, Northmoor Road, Dulverton, Somerset.

## Plant research

From Mr H. P. Boddington

Sir, My council, which represents some 1,400 local authority professional officers in the horticultural, amenity and leisure services, has recently become concerned at plans being considered by the Agricultural Research Council to discontinue research work on improvement of hardy ornamental plants by clonal selection, etc., at the Long Ashton Research Station.

The research council has indicated a need to release commitment of some 4 per cent annually, £3m on its present budget, and, in a discussion document recently circulated, suggests that the majority of this will come from reducing work at the Animal Breeding Research Organisation, Edinburgh, by nearly half and Long Ashton, Bristol, by one third.

Local authorities, as successors to many of the country's finest landed estates and guardians of much of the country's townscape,

are as a group the largest purchasers of trees and shrubs and for a long time they have been concerned at clonal variation in plant material, setting up with the Horticultural Trades Association a joint plant liaison group.

Whilst suggestions are now being made that the work at Long Ashton will be transferred to East Malling Research Station, Kent, it is my council's opinion that this is not the best interests of the future progress of the industry, amongst other things, it is being suggested that this work will have to be contained within financial cuts already planned for East Malling.

A final decision was to be taken in February but, after being taken in support for a widespread continuance of the Long Ashton programme, this was postponed until March, with a further postponement until April 20, 1982, to allow a consultative document to be circulated.

It is regretted that the Agricultural Research Council has not

seen fit to change its decision, despite the representations made to it and the firm belief of my Council that there is nothing in the consultative document to merit the decision.

Yours faithfully,  
H. P. BODDINGTON, President, Institute of Park and Recreation Administration, Morden Park House, Morden Road, Morden, Surrey, April 21.

## Chronic disorders

From Miss Charlotte Hofton

Sir, Has Mr Seigel (April 21) ever tried to unwrap a piece of sticking plaster with the fingers that have just been lacerated while endeavouring to open a tin of sardines?

Yours faithfully,

CHARLOTTE HOFTON, 107 Albert Palace Mansions, Lurline Gardens, W11, April 21.



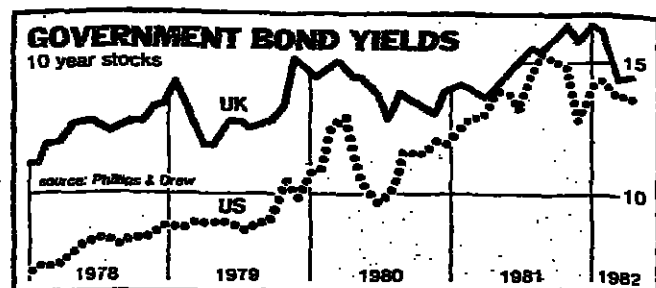




INSON  
reen and stage

## BUSINESS NEWS

### US widens the gap



The gap between yields offered on 10 year government bonds in the United Kingdom and the United States has widened, particularly since the market has been under the Falklands crisis shadow. In spite of the slightly lower nominal returns offered by United States bonds, the prospective real rate of return continues to look relatively attractive. Inflation figures last Friday suggested that United States inflation is slowing much more quickly than Britain's. Some analysts expect a United States inflation rate of 3 per cent by December.

### ACC agreement

The Independent Broadcasting Authority and Associated Communications Corporation will sign an agreement over ACC's stake in Central Independent Television later this week. The 51 per cent of the Central Independent voting shares will be placed in trust, but ACC will retain the rights to 51 per cent of the group's profits with the proviso that the IBA can demand the stake be sold or substantially reduced if it ever sees fit. It will mean the IBA will then consent to the transfer of ACC's voting shares to TVW Enterprises, headed by Australian financier Mr Robert Holmes a Court.

### EEC plans sugar fight

The European Community is planning a "divide and conquer" strategy against 10 sugar nations jointly fighting the community's sugar subsidy programme. Analysts say that if the community is successful it can break the complaint in 10 separate cases and claim each country is not hurt significantly. The exporters include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba and India.

### Down raid on Jarvis

A dawn raid on building contractor J Jarvis & Sons pushed the share price up 41p to 34p but broker Shephards and Associates managed to pick up only around 5,000 shares — 0.5 per cent of the equity — before the price went above the 35p per share being offered by their unnamed client. Mr Robert Denney, Jarvis chairman, said he believed he knew the buyer's identity but did not expect a bid approach. The largest shareholders in Jarvis are Mr Douglas Jarvis, the former chairman who holds 12 per cent.

### Profits aside...

House of Fraser, which is expected to announce its third consecutive full-year profits fall tomorrow, is spending £30,000 in sponsorship at the Edinburgh Festival.

### BP plant ready

BP Chemicals' £50m ethanol plant at Grangemouth in Scotland has been completed on time, and is expected to come on stream this summer — in spite of persistent speculation that extensive losses in plastics and petrochemicals will force job cuts before the end of the year at the Grangemouth site.

## MARKET SUMMARY

### Equities remain firm

#### LONDON EXCHANGE

FT index 568.0 up 0.9  
FT 100 67.58 down 0.02  
FT All Share 326.71 down 0.1  
Bargains 16,121

The start of the fourth week of the Falklands crisis proved again the underlying firmness of the equity market, where early market downturns were shrugged off and the FT index ended the day up 0.9 at 568.0.

GKN gave the best performance among leaders, with a 5p jump to 166p in response to a bullish circular from Rowe & Pitman. This forecast profits of £7.5m pre-tax this year, the top end of the range of market estimates.

Blue Circle at 460p, down 4p, and T&L Lyle down 4p at 198p eased ahead of figures, but ICI was firm at 310p in front of first quarter results. Bowater eased 2p at 228p with further stock coming on offer.

Gills rallied on the strength of sterling against the dollar having early market gains with long dates generally unchanged and shorts shedding up to 2%.

Comment on the prospect of further rights issues in the sector led leading properties where Land Securities shed 10p to 275p, MEPC lost 6p to 195p and Great Portland eased 10p to 164p.

Demand for oils continued, although it petered out later in the day, with Ultramar up 13p at 443p and Laseco rising 10p to 359p.

#### COMMODITIES

Metals responded unevenly to political tension. Cash standard copper lost £3 to £865 a tonne, while three months was about £2.50 lower at £894. Tin also fell, although the movement was confused by a temporary disruption of communications between London and Penang which allowed the Straits price to breach its intervention floor. Tin for immediate delivery was £7,090 a tonne, down £35, and three months metal lost £40 to £7,512. But by contrast lead, zinc and cash aluminium all rose.

Cocoa was the most active of the softs. Suggestions that the International Cocoa Organization buffer stock manager will be allowed to buy another 35,000 tonnes of materials and some reaction to signs of overselling on the charts caused April cocoa to leap by £40 to £940 a tonne and the May contract gain £52 to close at £978.

#### TODAY

Interim: Border and Southern Stockholders Trust, Greenoat Properties.  
Final: Astbury and Madeley, English National Investments, Farnell Electronics, John Laing, Ake View Investments, London United Investments, Marlborough Properties, Newarthill, North British Holdings, Paramba, Safeguard Industries, Silenight Holdings, John C. Small and Thomas, Tarmac, Toys and Company, Toner Kemsley and Milbourn, Turfitt Wadkin.  
Economic Statistics: Unemployment (provisional); unfilled vacancies (April provisional);

#### OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,404.21 up 33.53  
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index 1,279.27 up 43.43

#### CURRENCIES

The Pound slipped to \$1.75 in the Far East overnight and lost heavily against Continentals before regaining ground in Europe. The dollar was weaker after the latest money supply fall and lower short term interest rates.

#### LONDON CLOSE

STERLING \$1.7760 up to 60pts  
Index 89.5 down 0.3  
DM 4.2050  
FF 10.97  
Yen 222.50

DOLLAR Index 114.2 down 0.7  
DM 2.3740 down 120pts

GOLD \$355.25 up \$2.75

#### MONEY MARKETS

Rates opened slightly firmer but markets relaxed a little as sterling picked up. The Bank bought £471m of bills after a forecast of a £450m shortage.

Domestic Rates: Base rates 13  
3-month interbank 14-13 1/2  
Euro-Currency Rates: 3-month dollar 14 1/4-14 1/2  
3-month DM 9-8 1/2  
3-month FRF 22-21 1/2

## Esso triggers new rise in petrol prices

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Esso last night started a new round of petrol price increases that are intended to put between 3.5p and 7p a gallon on four star petrol in urban areas. Shell, BP and Texaco are expected to follow suit.

Higher Esso prices became effective from midnight. The company said that it was aiming to eliminate all subsidies to its dealers, including the "temporary allowance" it introduced last November. The new pump price will be about 165p a gallon, which compares with the present average of 162p a gallon in urban areas, and 167/168p in the country.

Esso would continue to provide a limited price support to its dealers in areas of hard competition, but it will not be paying any subsidies below a new minimum price of 165.5p a gallon.

Petrol prices have risen by more than 10 per cent since the Budget seven weeks ago, when the average urban price was 149/150p a gallon. Apart from the Chancellor's 9p a gallon increase in excise duty, there have now been three separate moves by companies to increase prices. Some of the industry's surprise all the increases have led.

Leading oil companies have made no secret of their wish to bring prices back up to 170p a gallon they reached last autumn. They claim to

## Talbot may salvage £150m deal with Iran

By Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Talbot UK's £150m a year export business with Iran could be saved by a complicated barter deal involving a British merchant bank, a commodity house and a Dutch-registered shipping company.

An oil-for-car-parts agreement has already been initiated by the Iranian Government, Iran National (the car assembler) and a team of Talbot executives which has been in Tehran for some weeks.

The delay in announcing progress has been caused by the detailed and delicate negotiations still necessary to satisfy all the parties.

However, motor industry sources suggest that a formal announcement will be made in Tehran and Coventry within a week to 10 days. The Iranian Government has apparently agreed to sell oil through a commodity house to a European-based oil company with the British merchant bank financing the deal and taking responsibility for the payment.

Last night Talbot refused to confirm or deny details of the package. A spokesman said: "We are guardedly optimistic. Talks are still continuing in Tehran in an atmosphere of cooperation and we would not want to prejudice them in any way. We can confirm, however, that we have already received some letters of credit for outstanding debts."

The failure of Iran National to meet substantial debts has already delivered to Talbot halting shipments last September. As a result, 1,700 of the 2,500 employees at the company's Stoke engine and transmission plant near Coventry have been on a reduced week for more than five months.

This has aroused union fears that it could close altogether. Last night local union officials welcomed the progress in the Tehran negotiations, but they are still advising their members to "await events before jumping for joy."

With its home-grown component industry in chaos because of the war with Iraq and with no supplies of engines or gearboxes from Talbot, Iranian car production has collapsed. ICI Hurl but export restrictions and slow domestic demand, Japan's production of passenger cars, lorries and buses fell by 0.5 per cent in the financial year to March, compared to about 11.1m vehicles.

## US resumes purchases of oil from Iran

From Nicholas Hirst, New York, April 26

The United States has resumed buying oil from Iran, a move to be seen as that could mark the advent of better relations between the two countries.

Officials said the Defence Department had bought 1.8 million barrels for \$53.1m (£30m) from Gatoli International, a Geneva-based organization, to add to the strategic petroleum reserve. The contract specified that the light crude would come from Iran.

This is the first time Iranian oil has been imported into the United States since the hostages crisis began on November 4, 1979. President Carter banned Iranian oil imports eight days later. That ban was lifted by President Reagan on January 19.

## Eastern block faces interest rate sanction

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg, April 26

OECD will not submit any proposals for an increase in export credit rates. Any pressure, particularly from the United States, for an increase in rates would have to be agreed by the European Community members in the margins of the OECD meeting.

It was agreed today that there should be a reclassification of the three groups of countries eligible for special rates of export credits. A high category for the rich countries is proposed based on an income of \$4,000 (£2,259) per head of the gross domestic product in 1979. Apart from the three European Block countries, this would include Israel and Spain as well as seven other small states or dependencies.

The impetus for the reclassification, according to Mr Nicholas Murray, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, came from the imposition of military rule in Poland.

## Edwardes critical of role of shop stewards

Communication in a company cannot be left to shop stewards.

Sir Michael Edwardes, BL chairman, said yesterday in a revealing exposition of his uncompromising style of management. Speaking to the City University Business School, Sir Michael said productivity was the key to success, and could be achieved only by altering attitudes, motivating people and pushing through difficult changes.

Boards of directors, managers and unions were all inclined to resist change, he said.

Sir Michael said the restoration of direct management-employee communications was an essential part of management's right to manage. This could not be left to shop stewards. "Shop stewards," he said, "have their own and their members' interests to promote," he said.

It was by bypassing the shop steward network and eventually convincing the shop floor of the need for change that BL had been able to push through its job cuts and achieve a productivity increase at Longbridge of more than 120 per cent in a year, he said.

He said the need for management of change was proved by the fact that wages in Britain had risen by 34 per cent in the last 10 years while productivity had increased by only 26 per cent.

## Wall Street Journal heads for Brussels

A new international edition of the Wall Street Journal should be on sale in Europe and parts of the Middle East by early next year. The publication could prove a direct rival to the Financial Times, a loss-making European edition.

Dow Jones, the United States publisher of the Journal, revealed plans yesterday to launch the publication, which will start with a minimum circulation of 10,000 copies.

The new edition aims to draw readers from Europe's business and political decision-makers and to offer business coverage on a par with that already provided in the United States and the Far East.

It will be edited and published in Brussels. Negotiations are being completed to print on the modern presses of Limburgs Dagblad, a Dutch regional newspaper in Heerlen. A European-based news staff will be set up in all main cities along with a sales and distribution network.

Mr Warren Phillips, Dow Jones chairman and chief executive, said the edition would not seek a wide European audience.

"We expect to be able to offer advertisers the means to reach the world's business and political leadership more effectively than ever before through our domestic and international editions," he said.

Dow Jones estimates that 50 per cent of its 2 million American readers have an average household income of \$68,000 (£38,400). That average is even higher among the readers of the newspaper's Asian edition.

The Asian edition, started five years ago and printed in Hongkong and Singapore, began with fewer than 10,000

## £220m earnings 'unsatisfactory' Ford profits fall again

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Ford of Britain, the country's only big motor manufacturer to remain in the black, saw its pretax profits pared to £220m last year. The payment of a dividend to the United States parent company has again been passed.

The results, published yesterday, show that Ford managed to stop the rot of 1980 when pretax earnings fell by 41 per cent to £226m. However, the company still regards the performance as far from healthy.

Mr Sam Toy, the chairman and managing director, said: "In our present environment these results may seem relatively good, but by any normal business standards they are unsatisfactory. We are simply not getting adequate returns from our manufacturing and trading operations."

The core of the problem, he said, was low productivity. Until we address that issue successfully we cannot hope to reverse the pattern of rising imports and falling export volumes.

Ford UK has paid a dividend to its parent in only five of the last 11 years but it has been called upon to support Ford of America with substantial loans, often made at commercial rates of interest. At the end of last year, promissory notes from Ford US reached a peak of £65m.

The result has been a substantial boost to Ford UK's earnings. The company's operating profit of £130m for 1981 — much of which was earned from the sale of imported vehicles from other Ford plants in Europe — was increased by



Sam Toy: unhappy about productivity

£90m of net interest income, almost half of which was from the American loans. Net interest income in 1980 was £85m.

The 1981 profits, reduced to £165m after tax, were achieved on sales of £3,073m compared with £2,924m in 1980.

The accounts show that because of Ford's worldwide loss of \$1,543m in 1980 — one of the worst corporate deficits in American history

— Mr Toy's performance-related salary for 1981 was £52,591 compared with the £67,133 earned in the first nine months of 1980 by Sir Terence Beckett, now director general of the Confederation of British Industry.

Mr Toy's 1982 salary will be affected similarly by Ford's loss for 1981 of \$1,060m and provides a sharp contrast to the £95,500 salary paid to Sir Michael Edwardes, the BL chairman.

## HK Land shares £150m deal

By Michael Prest

Hongkong's incestuous financial community was drawn even more tightly together yesterday when Hongkong Land, one of the world's biggest property companies, and Carrian Investments, a Hongkong investment company, paid about HK\$1,600m (£150m) for 25 per cent of the equity of Hongkong Electric and for a similar percentage of warrants.

Acting through Jardine Fleming, the merchant bank, Hongkong Land and Carrian offered up to HK\$6.75 for 25m shares in Hongkong Electric, the colony's second biggest electricity supplier. At the same time the buyers offered HK\$9.40 for 20m warrants in Hongkong Electric. The warrant price is equivalent to the share offer price.

Shares in Hongkong Electric rose from HK\$5.15 on Friday to close at HK\$6.35 after the buyers obtained what they wanted. The offer helped to propel the Hang Seng index up by 43.43 points to 1,279.27. Turnover reached HK\$2,000m, including the Hongkong Land purchase. The market rose about 50 points last week as well.

London sources said that about two-thirds of the Hongkong Electric shares and warrants had been bought by Hongkong Land and the remainder by Carrian.

Hongkong Electric does have some property interests, but London analysts believe that its primary attraction to Hongkong Land is the steady income and high return from electricity generation. Last year Hongkong Electric had a turnover of HK\$2,103m on which it made net profits of HK\$610m.

Its turnover is about half that of China Light and Power, the colony's main electric utility.

## NCC Energy may sell Simplicity stake

By Philip Robinson

There was increasing speculation that the City last night that Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey's NCC Energy group was preparing to sell its 22.6 per cent stake in the American Simplicity Pattern group.

Shares of NCC, formerly National Carbonising where Mr Lacey became chairman two and a half years ago and holds 42 per cent of the stock, were suspended on the Stock Exchange yesterday "pending clarification of the companies position".

Before a halt was called to dealings at a new low for the year of 35p, the shares had dropped 20p. At one point this year they changed hands at 112p.

The suspension followed weekend reports that NCC was on the verge of a big crisis, and that Simplicity shareholders were wrestling with the way Mr Lacey was spending Simplicity's £45m cash mountain.

NCC's stake in Simplicity built up over the past year is worth around £14m at yesterday's 37p, which is almost half the price NCC paid for a major part of the holding.

Simplicity directors were said to be in board meetings yesterday. Mr Lacey, its chairman, was in London and refused to comment. A statement is expected from NCC later this week.

A year ago, Mr Lacey was talking about a takeover by Simplicity of NCC which would have valued the United Kingdom energy group's shares at around 150p.

Last month, he said that plans to merge the two groups had been delayed because Simplicity's cash resources could be better spent elsewhere.

Mr Tom Ferguson Lacey, London representative, said: "Having seen the Lacey shareholders' register, it will not exhaust me to talk to the institutional shareholders before Friday. I will be contacting them this week."

Gulf's 15 per cent of Lacey is held by the 17 per cent holding of the trading group's chief executive Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland.

The issue will be decided by the thousands of small shareholders which have supported Mr Rowland in the past, although Lacey admits that a 75 per cent majority will be very difficult to achieve.

To get shareholders approval for the increase it will need the support of 75 per cent of the votes cast.

Lacey refused to discuss the Israeli issue yesterday, but said it was confident of the support of a number of its institutional shareholders over its borrowing limits.

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### SCOTTISH PROVIDENT

The 144th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of MEMBERS of  
THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION  
will be held on TUESDAY 25th MAY, 1982 at 2.30 pm  
in the HEAD OFFICE,  
6 ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH EH2 2YA

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from  
this address.

J. M. MACHARG  
General Manager and Actuary

6 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA  
27th April, 1982



# Kleinwort Benson

## Continued Progress

*A summary of the Statement by Mr. Robert Henderson,  
Chairman of the parent company,  
KLEINWORT, BENSON, LONSDALE plc,  
in the Report and Accounts for 1981.*

### PROFIT

Profit after tax and transfers to inner reserves totalled £21.7mn (1980 - £22.9mn). Although Sharps Pixley's contribution was well below the 1980 record figures, profits from that source still exceeded those attained in any previous year. Total dividend is 10p per share (1980 - 9p).

While demand for credit was surprisingly high, competition remained fierce and the earnings from acceptances were reduced. However, our ability to offer sterling facilities to international customers has led to a welcome inflow of business, and our sterling and foreign exchange operations have increased both in scope and profitability.

### EXPORT CREDIT

One benefit of being a bank of our size is the ability to underwrite and syndicate finance for large contracts, both in sterling and dollars, and our Export Credit finance services have been widely marketed.

### CORPORATE FINANCE

We had an outstanding year. The issues for British Aerospace and Cable and Wireless were successively the largest company flotations ever made in the U.K. On the international side, we had by far our most active year.

### INVESTMENT

Our international investment management business has continued to prosper, and has countered competition both by good performance and by keeping the increase in costs lower than the increase in income derived from greater volume, with the world-wide support of investment teams in our overseas offices. Trustee and financial planning services have also shown international growth.

### OVERSEAS

Our European subsidiaries in Bremen, Brussels and Geneva achieved satisfactory results, and Kleinwort Benson Australia - jointly owned with The Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society - made an encouraging start with a profit for the initial eight months. Our Hong Kong branch and its satellite finance company more than doubled their 1980 profits, offering a full range of international merchant banking services. Our banking and corporate finance business in North America, through offices in New York and Chicago - and, now, Los Angeles - has expanded.

### PRODUCTIVITY

Increasing productivity is helping to combat intensifying competition. Our balances of £3,600mn are still handled by office and accounting staff no larger than handled our balance sheet of only £250mn twelve years ago.

20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3DB

Represented in BIRMINGHAM, MANCHESTER, NEWBURY and EDINBURGH  
and in BAHRAIN · BANGKOK · BOGOTA · BREMEN · BRUSSELS · BUENOS AIRES · CHICAGO · GENEVA · GOTHENBURG  
GUERNSEY · HAMBURG · HONG KONG · ISLE OF MAN · JAKARTA · JERSEY · KUALA LUMPUR · LOS ANGELES · MADRID  
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## We cover the things you care for -with rewarding results.

### Highlights from the Accounts

	1981 £m	1980 £m
Group profit	29.4	21.4
Investment income	421.2	371.7
Long-term funds	34.0	26.8
Profit & loss account	18.7	14.2
General insurance	(18.9)	(15.2)
Underwriting loss	19.5	13.5
Shareholders' dividends	114.3	85.0
Policyholders' bonuses	5,827.1	5,107.1

If you wish to receive a copy of the Report & Accounts, or are interested in any of our insurance policies, please tick the appropriate box and send to: John Neill, Legal & General Group Plc, Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP.

Annual General Meeting 19th May 1982.

Member of the British Insurance Association and Life Offices Association.

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**Legal & General**  
We cover the things you care for

Mr R. D. Gee has been appointed vice-chairman of the London Gold Futures Market. Mr Gee is also a member of the board of the London Metal Exchange.

Mr David J. Robinson has become accounts director and Mr Michael G. Payne executive director for administration of Trident Life.

Mr F. A. P. Hall has been named chairman and chief executive of Ofrex Ltd, the direct selling office products company of the Ofrex Group, now part of Gallaher. Mr Hall also becomes chairman of Frank R. Ford, the Droitwich-based manufacturing subsidiary of Ofrex Ltd. An Ofrex Group board member, Mr Hall is also executive director of Fordgraph Consolidated (Australia) and president of Ofrex Group (Canada).

Mr Fredy M. Dellis has been appointed president of Herts Europe with responsibility for the company's

operating network in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Mr Austin Reid is appointed division vice-president for finance and administration and Mr John Hambly becomes division vice-president for sales and marketing.

Mr John Williams of Cherry Valley Farms has been re-elected chairman of the British Poultry Meat Association. It is the first time that the association has re-elected a chairman for a third consecutive year.

Mr R. A. Brook has resigned as secretary of Brooke Tool Engineering (Holdings) in order to devote more time to the group's machine tool division, where he has recently been appointed chief executive. Mr Brook will remain a group financial director. Mr I. C. L. Spencer has been appointed company secretary.

Mr S. W. Wells, general manager, of Rediffusion Channel Islands, has joined the board.



D. J. Robinson



Michael Payne

## BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

### Car sales figures cheer Detroit

Detroit—April 26.—United States car manufacturers increase in sales in mid-April from a year earlier, but were still not prepared to say that industry sales has bottomed out.

Deliveries during the middle 18 days of the month totals an estimated 157,924 cars, up from the 147,425 sold in the year-earlier period. The sales were equivalent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.8 million units, representing little or no improvement over the selling rate of last month.

Mr Robert Lund, vice-president of sales and marketing at General Motors, said there were some positive signs in the mid-April results and he was more optimistic about the sales outlook. "We have passed the most difficult period of the year. I think there is a greater feeling of confidence now that things will improve," he said.

But he refused to rule out the possibility that industry sales might fall in coming months.

A Ford sales analyst said the results showed that there was some stability in the car market. But he added that there was still considerable uncertainty in the near-term outlook for sales. "It's hard to tell where we'll go from here," he said.

Despite extensive industry promotion programmes, reduced interest rate loans from GM and special warranty packages from both Ford and Chrysler — car sales continue to suffer from the effects of the recession and consumer doubts about the future.

"A lack of confidence in the governments ability to bring about a recovery is depressing the car market," market analyst at Paine Webber Mitchell Hutchins said recently.

An analysis of the car market published by J. D. Power Associates, a market research firm, said that nearly 14 million people said they either definitely or probably would buy a new car in the next 12 months, but that many were being kept out of the market for the time being by uncertainty about prices, products, and



Loading Escorts at the Ford assembly plant in Wayne, Michigan

the health of the industry. "Consumers are forgoing purchases because they just don't know what to do," the report concludes.

Most industry analysts believe the car market will begin to show steady improvement later in the year. But few expect sales totals for 1982 to reach even the depressed 1981 total of 8.5 million units, including imports.

Chase econometrics, a department of Chase Manhattan Bank, recently projected sales this year would total only eight million units, down 5.9 per cent from last year.

"We may be headed in the right direction," said GM's

Lund. "But I still can't tell you that everything is right with the world."

One surprisingly strong part of the market recently has been in the medium to

Michigan, adding a second shift at both.

GM, which also said it would increase truck chassis production at a plant in Detroit, said the combined moves would return 9,500 hourly employees to work at the three plants.

Car companies also have been benefiting from a resurgence in truck sales. Deliveries of trucks have been running at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.7 million units, compared with 2.3 million units sold last year. To further stimulate truck sales, Chrysler said that it would offer \$300 to \$2,000 (£168 to £1,120) rebates on certain Dodge trucks. —AP-Dow Jones.

### MARKET SHARE

	APRIL 1-20	1982 1981
General Motors	31.1	29.1
Ford	23.0	24.2
Chrysler	13.3	13.2
Volkswagen	1.7	2.5
American Motors	0.9	1.0

large-car segment. On Friday, GM announced that it would increase production at two large-car plants in Fairfax, Kansas, and Lansing,

### US machine tool orders slump

The continuing recession and doubts about the strength of the forecasted second half business upturn are causing many American companies to curtail capital spending.

Machine tool producers say they are getting a lot of order cancellations as manufacturers cut expansion and modernization programmes. Few companies are placing orders for machine tools, which are used to shape metal parts from industrial gears to refrigerator doors.

Net new orders, the excess of orders over cancellations fell to \$135.4m (£76.5m) in March, down 51 per cent from a year earlier, according to the National Machine Tools Builders' Association. That was the lowest order level since January of 1976, and was down 17 per cent from February, the association reported.

"There's a general trend toward order cancellations," one observer said. "It isn't only the little subcontractors that are cancelling. We are seeing cancellations by larger concerns, too."

"Energy-related companies are reviewing their requirements and have decided their

growth will not go on forever," said another. "Some of the suppliers to the oil-drilling industry are having cash-flow problems because of lower drilling activity, and they can't pay for the machines they've ordered."

Machine tool buyers cancelled 569.1m of orders in March, more than double the unusually low 528.6m in February and about 30 per cent higher than the monthly average of cancellations in 1981. Some producers say high cancellations have been continuing this month.

Orders show no signs of picking up, industry executives say. "We're getting an order here and an order there, but there isn't any industry that is really ordering machine tools," Mr Kermit Kuck, chairman of a Ohio machine tool company, said.

The nation's factories operated at a seasonally adjusted rate of 71.4 per cent of capacity in March, which indicated no need for added capacity. Profits are low and concern that high interest rates will prevent a strong recovery later this year discourages businessmen

from making commitments for expansion.

Some businessmen and economists are worried that the federal government's large cash needs to cover the budget deficit may collide with business borrowing needs as the economy picks up pushing interest rates to record levels late this year and choking off economic recovery.

"We expect machine tool orders to remain fairly flat for the rest of this year, with a pickup coming in the second quarter of next year," another industrialist said. High interest rates are considered the biggest problem, because they discourage consumer borrowing and thus cut demand for cars, houses and appliances, as well as making borrowing more expensive for business.

Orders in March for lathes, grinders, machining centres, mills, machines, boring mills and other machines to shape metal by cutting fell to \$103.3m, down 64 per cent from March, 1981, the association said.

First quarter orders fell to \$382.4m, down 46 per cent from a year earlier.

AP-Dow Jones.

### APPOINTMENTS

#### Gold Futures Market names vice-chairman

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### BIDS AND DEALS

The Mackiesfield and Oldham business of Ernest Scagg, a subsidiary of Stone-Platt, has been sold to the Rietter Machine Works of Switzerland, by the joint receiver.

Limited Holdings has completed the sale of ITW delivered wholesale business to AFD Holdings for about £21m settled by a cash payment of £14m and £7m loan notes. The price was based on and estimate of the assets purchased by AFD and the repayment of debts within the group.

Mr M. W. Jackson chairman of Jackson Exploration said at the annual general meeting that the company has halted work on all new gas discoveries until the sub link systems could become a licensed public utility.

Initial gas gathering system began operating last week.

### Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Crd	13%
C. Hoare & Co	13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

\* 7 day deposits on sums of £250,000 and over 11.75%  
£50,000 and over 11.75%

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#### The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	YH	P/E	YH	P/E
130	100	Ass Brit Ind CULS	130	—	—	10.0	7.7	—	—
75	62	Airsprung Group	75	—	—	4.7	6.4	11.6	16.0
51	33	Armitage & Rhodes	44	—	—	4.3	9.8	3.7	8.3
205	187	Bardon Hill	200	—	—	9.7	4.9	9.7	11.8
107	100	CCL 11% Conv Pref	107	—	—	15.7	14.7	—	—
104	61	Deborah Services	62	—	—	6.0	9.7	3.1	5.8
131	97	Frank Horsell	129	—	—	6.4	5.0	11.6	23.9
83	39	Frederick Parker	76	—	—	6.4	8.4	3.9	7.4
78	46	George Blair	54	—	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	Ind Prec Castings	96	—	—	7.3	7.6	6.9	10.4
109	100	Isis Conv Pref	109	—	—	15.7	14.4	—	—
113	94	Jackson Group	99	—	—	7.0	7.1	3.1	9.0
130	108	James Burroughs	113	—	—	8.7	7.7	8.2	10.4
334	240	Robert Jenkins	242	—	—	31.3	12.8	3.4	8.6
64	51	Scruttons A	64	—	—	5.3	8.3	9.8	9.1
222	159	Torday & Carlisle	159	—	—	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5
15	10	Twinkl Ord	13 1/2	—	—	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinkl 15% ULS	80	—	—	15.0	18.8	—	—
44	25	Unilock Holdings	25	—	—	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6
103	73	Walter Alexander	80	—	—	6.4	8.0	5.3	9.3
263	212	W. S. Yeates	231	—	—	14.5	6.3	6.0	12.1

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL  
JAPAN  
Open market  
move delayed  
KWAIT  
FRANCE  
LEBANON  
SOUTH KOREA  
CHINA  
DENMARK  
VENEZUELA  
CORR



BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT



INTERNATIONAL

JAPAN  
Open trade  
move  
delayed

Japan will not be able to announce its second package of market-opening measures until May 2, as planned, Mr. Kiichi Moriguchi, the chief cabinet secretary said, in Tokyo yesterday.

He told reporters that a meeting between the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to discuss the package had been cancelled over the advisability of liberalising food imports.

The new measures would be the second such package in three months as part of Japan's efforts to defuse demands by the US and the EEC that it opens its markets to more imports.

Japanese vehicle production in 1981 fell 0.6 per cent to 11.1 million from 11.2 million the preceding year, the Automobile Manufacturers Association said.

China has signed an agreement for a \$60,000,000 loan (about £13.59m) from the Japanese Government's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund for its economic development projects.

Nippon Steel Corporation has notified leading Japanese steel customers that it plans to raise its steel prices by an average of 5.3 per cent from June/July shipment.

Orders received by 43 Japanese construction companies in March rose 4.6 per cent to a seasonally adjusted ¥851.27m (about £186m) from an upward revised ¥814.04m in February which was up 21.4 per cent from January, the Construction Ministry said.

KUWAIT

The Kuwait cabinet has approved a new budget of 3,200m Kuwaiti dinars (£6.27m) down by about 39 per cent over the present budget reflecting the effects of the oil market glut.

FRANCE

The net consolidated profits of Maisons Phenix, the residential construction firm, tumbled 72 per cent to Fr29.9m (about £2.59m) last year as the sagging economy continued to depress the French construction industry.

LEBANON

Iraq has said Syria made false statements on the royalties it received for the transit of Iraqi oil across its territory to Mediterranean terminals, halted earlier this month. Mr Tayeb Abdel-Karim the Iraqi oil minister, was quoted by the Iraqi news agency as saying that Syria claimed to receive only \$20m (about £11m) annually from Iraq in transit royalties. But he said that under the agreement with Syria, Iraq had to pay at least \$37m a year under any circumstances, whether the oil was exported or not.

SOUTH KOREA

South Korea and the EEC ended three days of talks in Seoul on Saturday without agreement on a new four-year bilateral trade pact from 1983, the South Korean commerce ministry said. EEC negotiators were trying to cut quotas on five sensitive items by between 10 and 12 per cent, but the Koreans opposed any cut in basic levels.

CHINA

China is amalgamating all its shipbuilding facilities into a single corporation called the China Shipping Company. The sixth ministry of machine building, which makes naval and merchant vessels, is being merged with parts of the ministry of communications and shipyards in Shanghai, Dalian and Canton. The new company built about £200m worth of ships and marine equipment in the second half of last year and is trying to expand its export sales, particularly of container ships.

DENMARK

Consumer prices rose in Denmark by 0.9 per cent in March from February, and were up by 10.6 per cent from March 1981. The largest reported increase was 1.8 per cent in the price of footwear and clothing.

VENEZUELA

Venezuela's oil production so far this year has reached an average 1.80 million barrels per day, down from the average of 2.11 barrels.

CORRECTION

The total of underdeclarations of value-added tax discovered in 1980-81 was £146m, not £141m, as stated in the Business Editor's column on April 20. The overall cost of VAT collection is 1.2p in the pound, not 2p.

Peter Norman explains how a row over an obscure commodity, corn gluten, could lead to a serious rift between the two largest trading blocks. The EEC wants to limit imports from the United States which sees the move as the thin edge of the protectionist wedge. American officials warn that domestic pressures may force the Reagan Administration into retaliatory action against the EEC.

Maize farming in America: a derivative of the crop is at the heart of the dispute

US and Europe head for trade conflict

Brussels. A furious row has erupted between the United States and the European Community over trade in agricultural products.

While the attention of the world has been focused on the Falkland Islands crisis, the temperature has risen alarmingly in the at best uneasy relationship between the two largest trading blocks on earth.

The immediate bone of contention is corn gluten, an obscure commodity obtained as a by-product in the manufacture of alcohol and sweeteners from maize and used as a substitute for cereals in animal feed.

The European Commission has proposed to negotiate in the context of a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) for a limit to the amount of corn gluten that the United States can sell to Europe.

The result has been strong and unidiplomatic language from the administration in Washington and the issue has even been drawn to the attention of President Reagan.

Suddenly high placed United States officials are talking of "collision course", insisting that their non-tariff access for corn gluten into the EEC is "not negotiable" and threatening the Community with retaliatory action if it goes ahead and endorses the Commission's plans.

The trade at issue amounted to about 2.7 million tonnes and was worth around \$500m (£28m) to America last year. But as the reaction in Washington shows, the Commission's proposal, announced without fanfare in the week before Easter, has touched a raw nerve and points to a much bigger problem.

The corn gluten issue has come to symbolize what the Americans perceive as an assault by the EEC on their agriculture. What turns irritation to anger is the belief that the EEC is waging an unfair campaign driving American products from the European market and the markets of third countries by the indiscriminate use of subsidies.

Add to this the fact that American agriculture is suffering from a slump in profitability that has brought incomes down in real terms to levels last known in the depression of the 1930s and a foreign trade concern becomes an emotional charged domestic political issue.

The American perception of the EEC's policy is that ameliorated knowing that Europe's farmers are campaigning for two-figure increases in guaranteed minimum prices and a suspicion that the Commission's proposal to limit corn gluten imports was devised in the first place as a political sop to the cereal growers of France to smooth the way towards an eventual price package.

The Americans predict that their agricultural exports will fall this year for the first time since 1969.

The corn gluten issue has come to symbolize what the Americans perceive as an assault by the Community on their agriculture. What turns irritation to anger is the belief that the EEC is waging an unfair campaign driving American products from the European market and the markets of third countries by the indiscriminate use of subsidies.

They claim that over the last 15 years their agricultural policy has moved away from interference with the market so that today domestic prices and world market prices are the same for most major agricultural commodities.

The EEC is held to be fully insulated from the world market. Production, rewarded by a guaranteed price, is subject to no demand restraint. Although the Americans believe that the resulting high food prices in Europe hold down demand for farm products, the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) gets around the problem by using subsidies to sell the surpluses on world markets.

The result, so the American argument goes, is that the CAP has become a common exporting policy. The disappearance of Europe's beef and butter mountains has been at the expense of American and other exporters.

In 1980/81 the EEC became a net exporter of wheat and feed grains for the first time since the creation of the CAP. Its sugar exports more than doubled to 4.5 million tonnes in 1980/81 from 2.1 million in 1976/77. The Community has in the life of the CAP moved from being the largest importer of poultry in the world to its largest exporter, while in beef and veal the EEC has shifted from being a net importer to being the second largest exporter.

The EEC can also point to bilateral trade figures between the two blocks to bolster its case. The EEC's imports of American agricultural products rose in value terms from \$6,000m in 1975 to \$9,200m in 1980 resulting in that year in an American agricultural trade surplus of almost \$7,000m.

In this period the United States held its share of a rapidly growing world trade in agriculture at around 17 per cent while the EEC increased its export share by only two percentage points to 11.5 per cent from 9.4 per cent.

The two sides' arguments may be evenly matched. But the offensive currently being mounted by the United States against EEC agriculture is fired by ideology and is part of a wider campaign to open up world trade in the 1980s.

The Americans argue that in wanting to limit corn gluten imports into the EEC, the Commission is trying to renege on a duty-free status won and "paid for" in negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The spectacular rise in corn gluten imports from 700,000 tonnes in 1974 to 2.7 million last year is not, they argue, a result of a deliberate export offensive by the United States. Instead, Washington argues that the increase reflects the artificially high prices of cereals in the Community, pointing out that American farmers find corn gluten,

too expensive a commodity to feed to their animals.

There is a fear that a concession to the Community on corn gluten would lead to demands that duty free soy imports also be subject to limitation.

The Americans see the corn gluten as the thin end of a wedge where the EEC Commission will try eventually to limit cereal substitute imports because they have grown in value to be worth about \$5,000m annually.

Behind the immediate issue is a different understanding of the GATT rules governing world trade. The United States asserts that GATT exists to promote free trade and that the codes allowing potentially distorting factors such as subsidies should be regarded as exceptions rather than the rule. The EEC view of the subsidy code is that it expressly allows the Community to export its goods, provided traditional patterns of trade are not disrupted.

American nerves have frayed at what is an inopportune moment for the EEC. American irritation could upset the Versailles summit in June and lead to the EEC being put in the dock when the first ministerial meeting of GATT since June 1973 is convened in Geneva in November.

The United States is already claiming a moral superiority through pressing for freer trade in the 1980s in a number of sectors including agriculture and services.

Parallel to this overall strategy, the administration in Washington is mounting a specific campaign against the EEC's subsidized exports and its import limitations in the GATT.

While Washington is strong on free trade rhetoric, officials point out that domestic pressures are such that the administration could decide to retaliate against the EEC.

Nobody is talking about a transatlantic trade war, but the rules of the game. But American officials in the front line — the United States Mission to the European Communities — point out that the administration has authority in the United States Farm Bill of 1981 to introduce subsidies to rival those of the EEC and the Community Credit Corporation has between \$20,000m and \$25,000m to finance a "subsidy war".

Business Editor  
Markets keep  
their cool

Financial markets hardly battered an eyelid at the retaking of South Georgia. Sterling, down to \$1.75 in overnight Far East trading, picked up steadily during the European trading day to close only marginally lower in basket terms — 0.3 down at 82.5 — and 60 points firmer (at \$1.777) against a weak dollar. Domestic interest rates, a touch higher initially, also showed no real sign of upset.

All in all, that is not an especially surprising performance. Markets had half expected a military operation to recapture South Georgia and had come to view it as likely to strengthen Britain's negotiating hand.

But any further military escalation will almost certainly be viewed in a rather different light, particularly if it threatens to draw outside powers into the dispute. For the moment though, markets will probably be happy to hold steady in the hope that the situation will be contained.

What might have been happening in financial markets had there been no Falklands crisis remains a matter of conjecture. But one can conjecture that we would already be on the way to a fresh round of interest rate cuts.

The dollar has been showing increasing signs of weakness over the past couple of weeks and Friday's unexpected news of a fall in United States money supply sent it lower against both the Deutschmark and the yen, despite some unease about the trend in non-borrowed reserves.

Institutions  
Growth slows

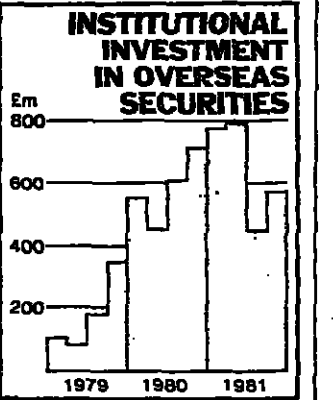
The most important message contained in the latest institutional investment figures is that the nation's large savers are growing more slowly than in their heyday of the Seventies. Recession is, of course, the main reason for the reduction in savings, but also contributory to pension funds' growth.

For 1981 as a whole, new money flowing into non-bank institutions rose by a little over 7 per cent to £2,000m. After allowing for inflation, inflows fell in real terms, especially in the final quarter. It is a fair bet that the nationalized industries' pension funds suffered more than most following the redundancies at British Steel and British Airways.

The slowdown in growth contradicts the assertion by Sir Harold Wilson that the pension funds alone would have an annual influx of new money totalling some £25,000m by the middle of this decade. In 1981 the

figure was just over £12,000m. However, the political limelight will not be switched off the funds. The second point to emerge from the statistics is that the bulk of the increase in new money went into Government stocks and house mortgages. Total investment in gilts was up from £5,586m to £6,416m in 1981, while investment in British equities held steady at £2,269m.

The institutions continued to build up their overseas equities portfolio in the first half of last year. Investment abroad dipped in the third quarter but



picked up in the final period. Over the year as a whole, the institutions invested £2,337m in overseas shares as opposed to £2,197m in 1980.

Clive Discount  
Recovery

The interest rate roller-coaster that took base rates up, to 16 per cent late last summer and left Clive Discount with a modest loss after six months' trading has since been coming steadily down the other side of the hill. The result is that the discount houses have generally enjoyed a fairly good recovery through winter, and for Clive that has meant a marginal increase in its net disclosed full year profit — the 12 months to the end of March — to £79m.

Clive says it has had relatively little exposure in the gilt market and that most of its activity has been in the form of a high turnover in eligible bills.

But while the massive shortage in the money markets have generated enormous bill volume, that has often been on very thin margins. At 29p, the shares yield 7.8 per cent on the increased dividend, while retentions have pushed published net worth up to £6.7m.

Not just a pretty face

MARKETING AND  
ADVERTISING  
DESIGN

By Torin Douglas

Design companies have been fighting for years the widespread notion that their work is somewhat frivolous. Design might make things look prettier, so the argument goes, but it does not do much for the bottom line.

In recent years, Britain's top design firms, such as Fitch & Company, Allied International Designers, Conran Associates and Michael Peters and Partners have become strongly oriented to marketing and management in an attempt to persuade companies that good design can increase sales.

Now Fitch & Company has gone one better. It is setting up a design department for all its clients' work to show them that the designers' input can actually be quantified.

One of the first areas in which the benefits are being measured is the design of airport terminals and, in particular, the crucial revenue-earning part of the terminal — the duty-free shop.

Fitch is the largest design consultancy in Europe with offices in London, Paris and the Middle East. Its turnover last year was £3.6m. Much of its business is in retailing and it has adapted its knowledge of this area to the airport terminal field where retailing is playing an increasingly important part in helping authorities make a profit.

The sums involved are enormous. The British Airports Authority is currently ranked thirty-ninth in turnover of the top 100 retailing firms in the United Kingdom. Its revenue from commercial activities last year was £65m, representing 46 per cent of the authority's total income. It is estimated that without this sort of revenue most airports would have to increase their landing fees by between 25 and 30 per cent.

Fitch has been appointed to design the fourth terminal at London's Heathrow, which is due to be opened in 1985, as well as a new duty-free area at Dubai Airport. An



At the drawing board: Crispin Tweddell in the Fitch and Company offices

idea of how the company operates can be had from Shannon Airport's new duty-free shop, which Fitch redesigned.

Profits at Shannon's duty-free shop had been dropping for several years, largely because of the loss of many transatlantic passengers whose flights no longer needed to refuel at the airport. Aer Rianta, the Irish airports authority, commissioned Fitch to increase the number of passengers buying goods and also to increase the amount spent by each customer.

"Our calculations showed that only 21 per cent of available customers — those passengers passing through the airport — were buying goods in the shop", Crispin Tweddell, Fitch's development director, says.

"Initially, we agreed with Aer Rianta that we would increase this figure to 30 per cent. However, it became clear in the course of the project that a more relevant problem would be to increase the average amount spent by a potential customer. That was £11 then. We agreed that our target was to increase this expenditure to £14 a head in 1982."

It is impossible to isolate totally the design element from a wide variety of factors that can influence expenditure such as inflation, pricing policy and so on. Nevertheless, merely setting targets enables the client and the design company to agree on the objectives of any particular project and to work towards them.

At Shannon research showed that a major problem was that passengers had only about 20 minutes to spend in the duty-free shop. This was exacerbated by the enormous size of the shop (22,000 sq ft — because Aer Rianta ran it as one large department store) and the design company recommended that the whole purchasing process should be simplified. The shop should concentrate on typically Irish merchandise which would appeal as souvenirs to the passengers, many of whom are Americans.

The number of lines was reduced to 10,000. Many of the more expensive items and those that were available

more cheaply elsewhere, were removed. The total sales area was reduced to a more manageable 16,000 sq ft. The number of departments was cut to seven — each colour-coded and signposted to aid passengers in a hurry.

Recommendations like these go well beyond the traditional design function, but Fitch argues that it is only by being involved in such management decisions that design can be made to work to the profit of the client.

"We emphasized that Shannon should become more gift-oriented", Mr Tweddell says. "We also recommended that part of the price strategy should involve involving a number of more costly items. Instead, we said they should try to encourage people to buy more items. Getting people into the shop is half the battle — one ought to make it easier for them to buy more than one thing."

The idea was to group various elements together, so that passengers might buy both Irish linen and a bottle of whiskey. The most popular section liquor and tobacco — was placed at the far end of the shop so that customers had to pass other merchandise to get to it.

The scheme appears to have worked well. In the first four months, from August last year to January, the average amount spent per passenger was £14.20 and the real increase in revenue was more than 13 per cent.

What happens if Fitch & Company fails to meet the targets? Would it accept any financial penalties?

"We like the idea of a payment-by-results system", Mr Tweddell says, "and at the moment we are trying to work out a sensible scheme. It is problematical though. It will always depend on how good the client company is. After all, a firm could lose sales by putting its prices up."

We would have no control over that."

Whether or not a payment-by-results system can be applied to design work, undoubtedly the setting of fixed targets by design companies will go a long way to reassuring sceptical businessmen that good design can improve marketing and increase profits.

THE UNITED STATES DEBENTURE CORPORATION p.l.c.

Extracts from the Directors' Report Year Ended 31st January, 1982

Main Features	1982	1981	% Change
Gross Revenue	£6,800,440	£6,480,798	+ 4.9
Net Assets	£110,420,791	£96,773,449	+ 14.1
Per Ordinary 25p Stock Unit:-			
Earnings	5.92p	5.72p	+ 3.5
Dividend	5.82p	5.58p	+ 6.1
Net Asset Value	153.1p	133.4p	+ 14.8

**Dividend and Revenue**  
We are pleased to report a 3.5% increase in after tax revenue available for Ordinary Stockholders to a record level of £4,068 millions (1981 £3,950 millions). Our gross income from the United Kingdom was marginally lower at £5,047 millions (1981 £5,107 millions), gross income from North America was 33.3% higher at £1,532 millions (1981 £1,149 millions). This increase in North American income was greatly helped by the translation of strong dollar income into relatively weak sterling. Indeed, the sterling rate against the American dollar began the Company's financial year at \$2.3870 and finished it at \$1.8810.

In view of the improved income performance and also the better prospects we see ahead for the receipt of dividend income in the current year, we are pleased to be able to recommend a final net dividend of 3.92p per ordinary stock unit, making a total dividend for the year ended 31st January, 1982 of 5.82p per ordinary stock unit representing a 6.1% increase. This is a full distribution of the year's income.

In the current year we anticipate that corporate profitability in the United Kingdom will show a good improvement, but that in the United States of America, due to the depth of the recession there, the growth of corporate profits is likely to be at a lesser rate than last year. So whilst we do not expect the growth of income in total dividend income received, it should nonetheless be possible to maintain the current rate of dividend.

**Investments**  
The total value of the Company's investments was again a record and grew to £111,398 millions (1981 £97,899 millions). The market value of our United Kingdom investments increased by 15.4% as compared with the 14.5% rise in the Financial Times All Share Index. The market value of our investments in the United States of America increased by 12.7% as compared with the 17.0% rise in the Standard and Poor's Composite Index, as adjusted for movements in the exchange rate.

During the year we built up holdings in North American convertible stocks which on 31st January, 1982 represented a total market value of £3,448 millions or some 10.7% of the total amount invested in North America. Our United Kingdom portfolio's underlying performance of our American portfolio was partially counteracted by the weakness of sterling against the dollar. Indeed, the percentage of investments in the United Kingdom has barely changed at 71.3% (1981 70.6%) with that of the United States of America standing at 28.2% (1981 29.5%). The Oil, Gas and Exploration content of our investments in energy holdings, but by the sharply lower prices of energy shares due particularly to the build-up of the current oil over-supply situation. The marked relative under-performance of the American energy sector was almost entirely responsible for the Standard and Poor's Composite Index being a better advance than that of our American portfolio which has a pronounced bias towards investments in the oil and gas industries.

**Investment Policy**  
In these challenging times for the investment trust movement we consider it very important to restate the investment policy of this Company which remains unchanged from last year. That is to say, our objectives continue to be to provide stockholders with a steadily increasing income whilst obtaining an acceptable rate of appreciation in the Company's investments. These objectives should be achieved through the medium of equity investments in the United Kingdom, United States of America and Canada. It is not the present intention to invest, in a significant way, in other areas. We wish to be known as an investment trust providing a relatively high income and having a bias towards investment in the United States of America and also in the energy sector.

**With regard to our energy commitment**, we acknowledge that the short term outlook for energy shares both in the United Kingdom and North America is unpromising, with prices for crude oil and refined petroleum products likely to remain weak until the resumption of world economic growth and the rebuilding of inventories. However, despite the depressed state of our energy investments, we feel that their quality is such that, when recovery eventually comes, they will once again out-perform the stock markets, especially those companies involved in servicing the energy industry. We would stress that the Free World's annual consumption of oil is 82 million barrels per day and that the amount of annual discoveries is only 1.5 million barrels.

We intend further to reduce our investment in Canada by making timely switches to the United States of America. It is our policy to retain investments in Canada only if they stand up favourably to American comparison. It is significant that Canadian investments now represent only 2.5% of our total investments. Whilst our long term target is to have at least 40% of the Company's assets invested in the United States of America, we would nonetheless only be willing to effect this at appropriate levels of the sterling/dollar exchange rate and provided that this course of action would not unduly impact our total dividend income.

We will continue to concentrate investment in strongly financial companies with a capacity to increase dividends at an above average rate.

We consider that stock markets in the United Kingdom and the United States of America will both show worthwhile advances by the end of the current financial year, and that the Standard and Poor's Composite Index, as adjusted for likely movements in the exchange rate, will show a greater rate of increase than the Financial Times All Share Index. We conclude that it is prudent to remain fully invested at this time.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts can be obtained from:

The Secretary,  
The United States Debenture Corporation p.l.c.,  
Austrian House, Basinghall Avenue,  
London, EC2V 5DD.



## Equity & Law Life Assurance Society plc

Extracts from the statement by the Chairman, Mr P D J H Cox, circulated with the Report and Accounts for 1981:

\* Our new business in 1981 shows another substantial increase.

\* New annual premiums for individual business in the United Kingdom last year were £13.7m, 33% higher than in 1980. Half of this was in respect of unit-linked contracts. In the autumn we launched five new unit trusts to which savings policies can be linked.

\* In Holland the total new business written in the market in 1981 was well below the previous year's volume and competition was therefore fierce. Despite this, new annual premiums for the Society were 9% up.

\* New annual premiums in Germany last year were £0.1m and net new sums assured £44m - up 74% and 134% respectively.

### Highlights of the Year

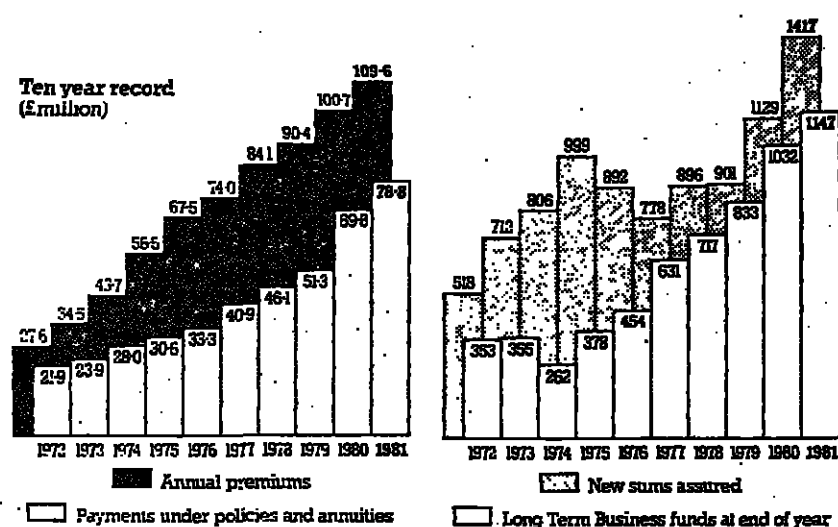
	1981	1980
New Sums Assured	£ 1,417	£ 1,129
New Annual Premiums	25.1	21.5
Total Premium Income	137.7	123.0
Payments to Policyholders	78.8	69.8
Group Net Assets	1,273	1,142
Investment Reserve	123	108
Dividend for the Year (per share)	15p	13p

\* Of the total of £94m invested last year, £34m was in respect of unit-linked policies. Unit-linked funds are now £180m, 14% of our total invested assets. £18m was invested in Holland and Germany against liabilities there and much of the balance of £44m was invested overseas, including £20m in Japanese and £5m in North American equities and £4m in properties in Europe.

\* The total investment income rose from £81m to £94m and the value of the invested assets appreciated by £27m.

\* A final dividend of 10.5p per share is recommended making with the interim dividend of 4.5p a total of 15p, 15% higher than the total of 13p for 1980.

\* 1981 was a good year for Equity & Law, and I am confident that 1982 will be another. As the figures show, our position is strong. Our investment performance has, for many years, been outstanding. In each country in which we write business we have a wide range of up-to-date contracts. It is our policy to provide an excellent standard of service. I believe therefore that future prospects are excellent.



Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, 20 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3ES.



Equity & Law

## Simon maintains profit margins

But it is a hard slog, chairman says

Cautious though Simon Engineering's chairman, Mr Harry Harrison, is about trading conditions in 1982, his plant manufacturing and oil and chemical servicing group has been maintaining profit margins very well. The group announced slightly higher profit figures for the last financial year than the expected - with pretax up from £19.3m to £20.3m. The final dividend is increased from 8p to 8.5p a share making 12.6p for the year (Sally White writes).

Simon's share price was already moving up ahead of the figures, at 385p against Fridays close of 363p. But it fell back on profit-taking to 373p, where it yields 4.6p. Bickers Hoare Gove are now going for about £23m for 1982, which would put the rating at nine times they think the company looks an attractive buy.

Mr Harrison says progress out of recession continues to be a hard slog. But there is a glimmer of an upturn in demand for plant for the contracting industry, for equipment from the mechanical handling industry, in orders for solvents for plant companies and chemicals for the oil industry.

The question is whether this is sustainable: a fairly gloomy thing to be forced to say after so many recessionary years. Acquisition is another area where Simon had hoped to make more substantial progress by this time. It has a large amount of cash - interest receivable less payable was £3.7m, cash and deposits less overdraft finished at £43m, cash and deposits less overdraft finished at £43m - but so far it has made only small takeovers of business, notably in the United States. In fact, as Mr Harrison points out, these have been easy to assimilate into existing companies, and therefore less disruptive than a large undertaking.

Sales overall were only slightly better - from £67.4m to £68m. In the breakdown of profit contribution the outstanding growth came from the manufacturing group which makes sewage and effluent treatment plant and hydraulic equipment. Profit there was up from £1.97m to £2.33m.

Oil services profit increased, as did process plant manufacturing's contribution. Food engineering was depressed by the recession in the United States, and by currency factors. Merchandising lost a little ground, but storage held its own.

Mr Harrison sounds fairly happy with the year's management record of both industrial activity and cash. Future progress is dependent on an end to the world recession, and in particular the recovery of the United States economy. Overseas companies contributed 30 per cent of profits, up from about 10 per cent.

Airports are seen increasingly as preferable to new railways, especially in big countries with little or no infrastructure, for international traffic. Air travel has already replaced deep sea lines and local schooners as the best way to travel. A country without an airport is virtually cut off.

The £850m a year Plessey Group moved into airports in the early 1970s with its radar subsidiary, which was already involved gradually expanding with traffic control equipment and eventually to total planning, design, equipment supply and project management.

□ Plessey continues to be highly regarded in the City. Sally White writes, where analysts are going for pretax figures for this financial year of £110m and about £126m in next year, against last year's figure of £88m. The rate is high, about 19 times on forecast earnings.

## Chocks away for airports

World airport development is growing so fast that Britain's Plessey Airports, leader in the sector, is expanding at a rate of 20 per cent a year (Michael Bailey writes).

Unaffected by the recession that is plunging both airlines and aircraft manufacturers into the red, airport development is setting a cracking pace that indicates confidence in civil aviation's long-term future.

One estimate puts the market at £3,000m over the next decade, for small upcountry strips to about £250m for an international airport. The cost split can be 70/30 either way between high technology and physical construction according to the terrain.

It is happening in developed countries where existing airports are being upgraded or new ones sited, and more in developing countries where new airports are seen as essential lifelines for both domestic and overseas traffic.

## Sign of upturn at Brook St

Brook Street Bureau, the employment agency was still making losses at the end of the financial year, but a recovery is in sight. The loss in the second half was below that for the opening six months and Mr Eric Hurst, joint chairman, says that demand for staff is improving. Temporary staff placed started to get better in March and there is a slight improvement in coming through in permanent staff inquiries.

The loss for the year is £1.3m, on turnover down from £22m to £14.3m. The final dividend, of 0.1p, is a nominal status, is a nominal 0.1p - the total for the year.

Overseas the picture is brighter with Australia increasing its contribution to profits. Mr Hurst thinks it unlikely that a return to profits could be forecast before the autumn, because his business is dependent on a recovery in the economy generally.

### COMMODITIES

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